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STREETVIBES \$1

ADVOCATING JUSTICE • BUILDING COMMUNITY

Cincinnati Teacher Fights Being Shut Out of the Political Debate

Dan La Botz, a Cincinnati elementary school teacher, who tried but was unable to enter last year's televised debates hosted by Ohio's big eight for-profit newspapers (the Ohio News Organization), has filed a lawsuit in federal court against the Federal Elections Commission.

 **MARK GRAUHUIS**
Contributing Writer

La Botz, who ran as the Socialist Party candidate for US Senate in 2010, alleges that Ohio Newspaper Organization (ONO) and its corporate members had scheduled a series of televised debates between Portman and Fisher in violation of the Federal Election Campaign Act.

Acting on advice of its General Counsel, the Federal Election Commission (FEC) subsequently dismissed La Botz's administrative complaint on May 19, 2011. However, as La Botz's law team of Mark Brown of Capital Law School and Oliver B Hall of the Center for Competitive Democracy in Washington, D.C., argue: "The Commission's dismissal of the Plaintiff's administrative complaint is contrary to law, an abuse of discretion, and arbitrary and capricious". La Botz is now suing the FEC to force it to enforce the law.

When there are no objective standards, the debate sponsors may well be in violation of federal election law, which bans corporate contributions to candidates for federal office. After the debates were over, ONO said it had applied its own criteria, inviting the two major party nominees based on their party affiliation and the fact that they were the "obvious frontrunners," and without communicating what the standards were with the other ballot-qualified candidates.

Citing legal precedents such as *Buchanan v. Federal Election Commission*, La Botz said that Ohio has unconstitutionally excluded minor-party candidates for sixty-plus years from its ballots. "Republicans and Demo-

crats made an agreement with the largest broadcasters to provide free coverage, and this amounts to an illegal financial contribution."

If ever this country needed a third party candidate to break the stranglehold of the two-party system, now is the time. As disclosed in the Los Angeles Times just a few years ago, the majority of Americans support the rise of a third party (Green, Labor, etc.). But if a ballot-qualified candidate existed who stood with the American people, rather than selling them out for campaign contributions, how would we hear them?

The landmark decision in the *Citizens United v. Federal Election Commission* now allows a funding source other than ONO to pay for debates, and to invite ONO members and majority party candidates to it. It should not be the role of the Federal Election Commission to exclude other candidates from debates without good reason, or to categorically limit the debates to two major-party candidates.

In a shocking but logical extension of the recent package of antidemocratic measures (e.g SB 138, HB 194, HB 159), the GOP recently decreed that, as of September 30, minor parties would lose any ballot access in Ohio, effectively banning any alternative to the two ruling parties. Ohio Secretary of State John Husted has made it clear that his interpretation of the draconian Ohio House Bill 194 (the same law that restricts the right to vote for many Ohio voters, including the elderly, students, urban and poor people) means that all minor parties will lose their official statewide party



Dan La Botz and other political third party candidates struggle to seize their democratic right to be heard in a system that has been hijacked by two parties and a lot of money. *Photo: Courtesy of Dan La Botz*

status. Parties that have been on the ballot since the 2008 election will have to start over to gain ballot access that they already held under a federal court ruling.

The new restrictions set a petition deadline of early February, instead of November in the year before the election. This same deadline was held unconstitutional in 1968 in *Williams v. Rhodes* by the U.S. Supreme Court. In addition, third party candidates will be required to receive at least 5% of the vote during gubernatorial and presidential elections, an unrealistic—as well as unconstitutional—threshold for smaller parties without the ability to raise money, choose candidates, hold primaries, or establish membership. Anita Rios, Green Party member and Toledo City Council candidate, said, "Whether the State chooses to outlaw us or not, we will continue to fight for what's right. Our fights to end nuclear power, protect workers' rights, and help minorities and women are too important to let the Republicans and Democrats stop us, just because they are afraid of a little competition."

While a government that is truly of the people and by the people now

seems childishly naïve for millions of Americans, real-deal populists and socialist once believed it was not naïve. In 1911, nine years before the Nineteenth Amendment to the Constitution guaranteed women the right to vote, Helen Keller, a supporter of the Socialist Party of Eugene Debs, wrote: "Ours democracy is but a name. We vote? What does that mean? It means that we choose between Tweedledee and Tweedledum."

It is a great shame that, at a time when trust in the political class is at an all-time low, we have had the momentous Wisconsin uprising, inspiring and giving hope to people across the world, yet there was no major TV network willing to cover its main debates, and there is no party for all those people who helped create a wave of direct democracy. In 1968 the length of TV news sound bites during American presidential election campaigns ran to an average of 42.3 seconds; by 1988, they had been slashed to only 9.8 seconds; by 1992, they were even smaller, at 7.3 seconds, and they have

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Veterans for Peace
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Hidden Gems of the
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FROM THE DIRECTOR

Love is a Hard Choice (and not flimsy)

Love. What is love? Often we speak of love as if it were entirely a feeling- something that people are regularly falling in and out of. We say it cannot be explained, but you just know when you feel it. Often we apply the word love to romantic relationships, some family relationship, pets, activities and sometimes very close friends. We quickly say "I love you" when we say goodbye to the romantic partner or close family member. We say "I love my dog" or "I would love to go to the game tonight." But what is love, really?

Sometimes when we feel particularly inspired we say things like "We are to love everyone." Yet, rarely does the rest of our language, as mentioned, actually match the inspired concept of loving everyone. This is because loving everyone involves loving people that effectively are your enemy or do wrong to others. This is certainly not the same as "love" we talk about that is based on romance, or close blood relations or cute ears on a puppy-dog. This is also not a "love" that is based entirely on feelings-something we just fall in and out of. In fact I would assert that no true love is actually based on any of these things.

True love is a choice. Not only is it a choice, but it is a constant choice. And true love does not rely on the actions of the other person. True love may waiver, but not based solely on feeling. True love waivers because as humans our strength waivers. True love is applied to people who truly love us, people who think they love us and people who do wrong to us and those around us. Love is not easy. Love is not some mushy, sweet thing. Love certainly does not always feel good.

Love involves work. We have to choose to give of

ourselves in order to love. Even in close relationships, love requires weeding out selfishness. In struggle with enemies we find that love is not the same as "like." "Like" involves being okay with how someone is or what someone is doing. Love involves respecting one's humanity no matter what she or he is doing. Love involves wanting something better for that person. If the person in question is an oppressor of others, love involves wanting them to change because it would also benefit them through a more whole life of choosing to love instead of oppress.

Loving an oppressor does not call one or many to be weak toward them or to not press forward against them, but to continue to point out their wrongdoings- because if an oppressor stops oppressing others, not only will this be better for the people that are now free, but it will also be holistically better for the former oppressor. Sometimes in an effort to be loving we tend to not challenge, hammer back and overcome those stealing power from others. Loving one's humanity does not mean liking that person, love means being willing to struggle for better lives for all involved- including the oppressor.

While these words are easy to string together, putting them into practice is not easy. Balancing love with just anger, such that love does not turn into something it is not- flimsy weakness and just anger does not turn into something it is not- hate- is no easy task, but it is one we are all called to. Love is a choice, it is hard, often tiring and sometimes painful- but in the end love- True Love Will Overcome.

Josh Spring LSW, Executive Director

Streetvibes is an activist newspaper, advocating justice and building community. Streetvibes reports on economic issues, civil rights, the environment, the peace movement, spirituality and the struggle against homelessness and poverty. Distributed by people who are or once were homeless, in exchange for a \$1 donation, Streetvibes is published twice a month by the Greater Cincinnati Coalition for the Homeless (GCCH), a 501(c)3 non-profit organization that works to eradicate homelessness in Cincinnati.

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LETTER TO THE EDITOR

August 29, 2011

Dear Streetvibes:

You had us worried last winter. We were afraid you were suffering too many changes and might almost expire, but when spring had sprung and the trees flowered again, you did, too. It's a historical fact at Streetvibes that when new people are needed, suddenly they appear! You have fine new designers and researchers and writers -- and a new editor -- and the paper is in very good health again. We see good work explaining the Kasich bills that would keep people from voting and would drive more and more citizens into poverty; sharp writing from Josh Spring; smart editorials; interviews of people in Over-the-Rhine that are more clearly and artfully constructed than anything in the big papers. -- and much more.

I'm a writer myself, and I love good writing, and writing that tells the truth; and that's why we depend so much on a good bold paper to tell us what's really happening in this town.

We need stirring headlines, and your header for August 19th, "Cincinnati Prays to Save Historical Homeless Shelter," was a good note to sound -- though we do have to remember that the Anna Louise Inn is not primarily a "shelter" but a residence for working women. It was great that both August issues highlighted the attack on the Inn by Western Southern in a variety of good articles and documents. Your coverage of the campaign to save the Inn was, again, better than anything that could be read elsewhere. I read each and every one of those pieces, and thanks to your publicity, made it to the August 25th Ice Cream Social at Lytle Park for friends of the Inn.

That was a marvelous event, and it was gratifying to see that in this cause the progressive churches of Cincinnati have raised their voices for justice. The teachings of Christ are on the side of sisterhood and brotherhood, after all, loving your neighbors as yourself and all of that, and why should Christians not gather in his name to protect those caught in the quagmire of big-money greed we see around us every day? The Unitarians were out in good numbers, we saw Episcopalians, and Mt. Auburn Presby-

terian brought fifteen of its members to this event.

I met a lot of friends and good people, made a donation to the campaign, and, like a good many others, was guided about the Inn to see how things work there. The rooms are small but often made comfortable by the residents with pretty plants and neat shelves of books and so on. When the new refurbishing is finished -- if it is allowed to be -- single working women of low income will be able to live in modest kitchenette apartments rather than in the narrow spaces assigned to them at present. Today the residents often gather at night in a large basement kitchen, carrying their foodstuffs and their tools and pots down the stairs to cook their meals. The time has come to provide a little more gentle routine, and residents will be able to prepare their dinners in their own kitchens if they wish.

I spoke to a woman who grew up in Georgia but who has been living at the Inn for thirteen years. She worked in an office downtown, but is seventy-four now, no longer working, and says she still values her life at the Anna Louise Inn, and would not know where else to go.

Lytle Park is beautiful with its canna lilies and handsome lawns. The figure of the old Taft-Sinton home, now the Taft Museum, can be seen facing the far east end of this flowery park; but no one can see the park from the porch of the Inn. The view of it is blocked by an office building raised right in front of the Inn's front door. It's a building owned by Western Southern, but has usually been unoccupied, residents say.

Let's ask Western & Southern not only to cease and desist its attempt to remove the Inn from its home of over a hundred years, but also to donate this structure to the Inn itself, so that more and more working women who find themselves alone and in need of help could be served.

How would that be for neighborliness?

Martha Stephens is a longtime reader of Streetvibes and sometime contributor. She's the author of novels on working-class life and of *The Treatment: the Story of Those Who Died in the Cincinnati Radiation Tests*.



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Friends of Anna Louise Inn Hosts Ice Cream Social at Lytle Park

Friends of Anna Louise Inn Urge Citizens To Stand Firm

**ALICE SKIRTZ &
JENNY O'DONNELL**

Coalition Members & Friends of Anna Louise Inn

The 350+ people who attended the old fashioned Ice Cream Social at Lytle Park on August 25 showed steadfast support for Cincinnati Union Bethel in the mighty struggle to preserve the Anna Louise Inn for permanent affordable housing for single women. An "everyone is welcome" invitation brought attendees from downtown and uptown, business leaders and residents from the community to enjoy a sunny afternoon with the delights of DoJo Gelato ice cream and the sweet sounds of Chris Miller's band. Residents of the Inn gave tours of their home soon to undergo renovations to preserve the historic character of the

majestic 102 year old building while transforming it into modern, affordable efficiency apartments for women residents.

As of the printing of this paper, Judge Norbert Nadel has not ruled on Cincinnati Union Bethel and the city of Cincinnati's filings for the dismissal of Western and Southern's lawsuit against them. Western and Southern, who initially expressed a desire to buy the property where the historical inn is located, announced they were filing the lawsuit to be able to have their say about the renovations of the building. On August 10th, in a court hearing, Judge Nadel promised to rule swiftly in the filings for dismissal. However, the nearly three week delay is unfortunate, as it plays into the hands of those trying to stall renovation of Anna Louise Inn. The delay could prevent CUB from completing their renovations in time to comply with the federal investment dollars that were awarded to CUB for the renovations, potentially causing them to lose the federal tax credit investment awarded specifically for upgrading affordable housing.

Western and Southern leaders have said they did not get a fair hearing about the use of Anna Louise Inn



Photo: Courtesy of Friends of Anna Louise Inn



Photo: Courtesy of Friends of Anna Louise Inn

when the zoning permits were granted, though the city followed the usual permit process, and in fact, held several conversations and one very contentious vote (8-1) on Council floor about the project. However, now Western and Southern's legal action has stopped all related funding from being delivered to ALI, keeping several small and large businesses from being able to start on already awarded contracts, and displacing nearly half the capacity of the housing to prepare for the renovation; meaning over 40 women who could have found safe and affordable housing there, have had to look somewhere else and the renovation is now being delayed.

The many citizens and business leaders standing beside the residents of Anna Louise Inn overwhelmingly urge Judge Nadel to rule in CUB's favor on the suit quickly, and allow the ALI to upgrade the accommodations for as many as 85 women, and to continue their community building efforts. Friends of Anna Louise Inn ask that Western Southern end their campaign against one of Cincinnati's oldest providers of affordable housing. Citizens have been heard in meetings and on street corners making statements such as "I used

to think Western Southern was a good corporate citizen, a friend of the community." Now folks are questioning their motives as Western and Southern continues to change many citizen-minds about who the insurance company really is. They ask why W&S would give so much to cancer research, children's issues and tennis tournaments, but cast out working women who have been living next door for over 100 years.

Friends of the Anna Louise Inn urge citizens to continue to write letters to the newspapers, communicate with leaders of Western and Southern so they know your concerns, sign the letter of support for ALI (see the CUB website and Facebook page), discuss this issue with your neighbors and colleagues and ask them to speak up, peacefully protest and take every opportunity to stand with the women who need the Anna Louise Inn.

Five National News Stories to Catch Up On

JESSE CALL
Contributing Writer

1 Some people experiencing homelessness rode out Hurricane Irene on the streets of New York City, WCBS 880 reports. One man tried to escape the storm but was forced out of taking shelter in a subway station and emergency officials offered no alternative for evacuation, he said. He and another man said they would have evacuated earlier but they were unaware of the early shutdown of the mass transit system because they had no access to a television or radio. As he slept in the storm, he said officials driving by offered no assistance.

2 The National Coalition for the Homeless has sent a letter to U.S. Attorney General Eric Holder urging his office to review the recent voting reform legislation that has been considered or passed in several states, including Ohio. These

laws often require state-issued photo identification to be presented at polling place. Many people experiencing homelessness do not have state-issued ID. Some states have also limited the number of opportunities to vote early. NCH said these laws violate federal law and Constitutional protections. In his letter, NCH executive director Neil Donovan writes: "We believe that these laws will disenfranchise thousands of legitimate voters to solve a problem that voting experts claim is documented in only a handful of cases out of the tens of millions of votes cast in the last seven years. We urge the Justice Department to intervene to protect the sanctity of the vote and require equal access to the ballot box across the United States." NCH is asking supporters to send a similar letter to the AG's office which they can download at <http://www.nationalhomeless.org/>.

3 The U.S. Court of Appeals for the 4th Circuit dismissed an appeal filed against the City of Rich-

mond, Virginia and Virginia Commonwealth University on behalf of people experiencing homelessness. The Associated Press reports that several service agencies alleged that the city and university discriminated against people experiencing homelessness by forcing shelter and feeding agencies to move miles away from the downtown area. The ruling in the federal lawsuit said the plaintiffs failed to show any discriminatory conspiracy.

4 A 16-year-old high school student from Gary, Indiana, has admitted to raping a 68-year-old woman experiencing homelessness who had just sought shelter from the rain in a Chicago train station, police told the Chicago Tribune. Video surveillance shows the boy brandishing a handgun and police say the victim reported he told her he would kill her if she did not comply. It is not clear whether the woman was targeted because she was experiencing homelessness, but the teen is seen entering

the stop moments after she entered the bus stop. The juvenile remains behind bars and has been charged as an adult.

5 Police in Jackson, Tennessee are targeting people experiencing homelessness, but this time not with warrants or citations. The Jackson Police Department has created a Homeless Outreach Team, or the HOT division, that is designed to "address issues of homelessness the criminal code does not (address)," the Jackson Sun reports. Six police officers have volunteered to participate in the community-based policing unit which will link people with community resources to help them escape homelessness. "Usually, we deal with criminal matters and complaints, but arresting someone who does not have the money to make bail or pay their fines does not solve the major problems," Corley said. "Not to mention these people are our citizens, too."

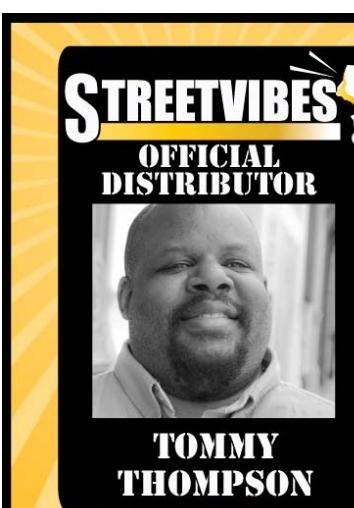
La Botz, continued from p.1

declined since then.

With regressive campaign rules, there can be no platform on which any voice for the people could address mass audiences other than through punditry.

An important recent poll by Christopher J. Bryan of Stanford, in published in Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences, suggests that though most Americans are reluctant "to vote". But the poll

also found that they want to "be voters". We are told there is no alternative to the two parties. But there are plenty of alternatives within that no alternative. You can buy petroleum, you can buy ethanol, you can buy biodiesel — but you can't vote for a socialist. The two major parties essentially rig the system so that outsiders cannot win. Ohio gets a great deal of attention on Election Day. We could send a powerful message to the world by taking direct action towards election reform.



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But then the vets came to town

Veteran's for Peace is an organization that campaigns against future generations being dragged into warfare through army recruitment in the schools of America. With recent wars in Afghanistan and Iraq claiming the lives of America's young men, war veterans like Joe Murphy and Mike Dedrick want this to stop by the use of an "opt out" option on having children's information automatically sent to the military. "The military has been treating our schools as a press-gang operation," Dedrick says

MARTHA GIES
 Street Roots (USA)
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There was not much promise in the week beginning August 1.

On Tuesday, following the Congressional battle over the debt ceiling, President Obama signed into law the Budget Control Act of 2011, and one day later national debt surpassed 100 percent of gross domestic product for the first time since World War II.

On that same day, Wednesday, August 3, Nick Turse posted to Tomdispatch.com an article about the clandestine reach of the U.S. Special Operations Command (SOCOM), now metastasized to 120 countries, where special op teams from all branches of the military carry out "assassinations, counterterrorist raids, long-range reconnaissance, intelligence analysis, foreign troop training, and weapons of mass destruction counter-proliferation operations." And while Turse's chilling exposé was probably seen only by lefties - it went to *Huffington Post*, *Common Dreams* and *Counterpunch* within a day - by Saturday the *New York Times* had published a long and thoughtful piece by Drew Westen about the demise of our hope in Obama ("...the arc of history does not bend toward justice through capitulation cast as compromise.") that quickly became one of the most widely emailed of the year.

What a week! As some of us clicked frantically through websites looking for the elusive good news, others went outdoors into the novel Oregon sunshine, where news might never reach at all.

But then, on August 3, the vets came to town.

At Portland State University's historic Lincoln Hall, 400 veterans convened for an annual national convention to talk about peace and to scheme, on several simultaneous fronts; to wage it even in the face of a war machine so lucrative that even Eisenhower might gasp.

Hope, in the form of resilience, resistance and nonviolent revolution, was brewing in our midst.

To abolish war, that's the mission of Veterans for Peace (VFP), explains Daniel Shea, a Portland veteran of Vietnam who serves on the national board. "Some members are pacifists," he adds, "but I don't count myself as a pacifist because I do believe in self-defense. If somebody were occupying our country, I'd join in the fight. But that would be the only time."

Shea, along with other members of local VFP Chapter 72, spent months planning the convention, which Portland hosted for the first time. Vets arrived from across the country for five days of film, music, tabling and book sales, speeches and a business meeting at which 16 resolutions, on issues from depleted uranium to Palestine to toxic chemical dumping in South Korea required their vote. Shea, an artist with a day job at the Oregon Symphony, personally curated an exhibit at the Littman Gallery called The Tenacity of Hope.

"We are reclaiming the path of transparency and holding our government accountable," Paterson states with evident pride.

On Thursday, day two of the convention, the workshops begin and the corridors of Lincoln Hall are loud with talk and laughter as vets, WW II to Iraq, high five, hug and try to figure out where each of the nine offerings will be held in that first time slot. Back-to-back presentations include two on PTSD (encounters with the criminal justice system and transformational healing), drone payloads that target civilians, helping GIs who want out of the military, and a teach-in on the basics of organizing behind VFP's new campaign: How is the War Economy Working for You?

"Man, how do you choose?" I hear

one vet grumble in the elevator. "They're not going to repeat any of these!"

In the afternoon, I pass up a session by Col. Ann Wright, who resigned in 2003 in opposition to the Iraq war, talking about organizing



Past military men and women working hard to prevent the deaths of their future brothers and sisters-in-arms. *Photo: Courtesy of Veterans for Peace*

the 2011 Gaza flotilla; and a panel on the continuing tragic aftermath of war in Vietnam, where people still sicken and die from Agent Orange, and unexploded landmines still maim and kill. I choose to watch "The Welcome," a powerful new 90-minute film shot during a unique veterans' healing retreat in Ashland, Oregon. Under the guidance of author and storyteller Michael Meade, veterans begin to transform the raw nightmare of war into poetry. The film ends with retreat participants reading their poems to an audience of 650 people who pack the Oregon Shakespeare Festival's Bowmer Theater.

One particularly moving poem, by Melissa Steinman, a veteran of Kuwait, speaks to the hidden path to healing through the jungle of underbrush and to the gratitude she feels to older vets. Her poem is called "Old Timers - A Term of Endearment."

From across the valley, a brother runs towards me, and nearly out of breath he says, "There was no path to healing when we came back. But we are used to cutting through jungles, we started hacking through the bush 40 years ago, in a direction that might lead to it..."

Older vets companioning young vets is a key dynamic in VFP. "The Iraq vets would tell you that they're standing on the shoulders of Vietnam vets," says Daniel Shea, "and we're standing on the shoulders of WW II combatants who realized later that it was too high a price, that war could have been averted."

Shea appears in "The Welcome," one of the two dozen vets who went through the retreat with Meade, but misses the VFP screening to give a workshop on recent U.S. actions in Libya, where we bombed "to protect civilian lives" and in Honduras, where we facilitated the military coup but take no notice of death squad murders of democracy activists.

The Welcome, released in April of this year, is making the rounds of festivals and will soon be available for purchase: <http://www.thewelcomethemovie.com/>.

Long-term activist Mike Dedrick is in Portland for the convention, and I

ask him how he got into the military.

"I was working in construction, putting myself through school," says Dedrick. "But I was f***ing around, playing pool. I flunked out of the University of Washington twice and lost my student deferment and got drafted, which would have been two years. So I enlisted for three years 'cause I didn't want to go to Vietnam."

Whereupon he was trained as an intelligence analyst and interrogator, and sent to Vietnam. It was 1967 and Dedrick was 21 years old.

After discharge, he went to Seattle Central Junior College for a few quarters, earning As and Bs. "When I'd dragged my GPA up, I got back into U.W." Dedrick says. "By the time I'd earned my B.A. in European Medieval History, I was already in Vietnam Veterans Against the War (VVAW)."

After a stint in a factory and two years learning to be an offset printer, he went back to the building trades.

Meanwhile, Dedrick had begun his activism in 1971 as the VVAW Regional Coordinator for Washington and Alaska, working on counter-recruiting and running deserters and soldiers gone AWOL across the border to Canada.

Like other vets I talk to, Dedrick regrets ever having let his guard down. "But you become fed up or burnt out, frustrated, depressed. It doesn't seem like its working."

The one victory he remembers from those years came on August 4, 1974. "I was in the Century Tavern, on University Way, when Nixon resigned, and the owner broke out a case of champagne. That was a good moment but, finally, I just couldn't do it anymore."

"So there's a long history of this [activism], going back to the sixties, only a lot of people, including myself, didn't follow through."

"In '91, the Gulf War really hit me quite hard. I really didn't think this country would do what they did on the so-called Highway of Death, butchering all those Iraqis," he says, speaking of the night raid on Feb. 26, when American aircraft attacked Iraqi military personnel retreating along Highway 80, which runs from Kuwait to Iraq.



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The first Gulf War saw the longest strike mission in the history of aerial warfare, and those strikes were televised, giving many of the older vets fresh nightmares.

"We got a group of people together, and it was after that that I got involved in the GI Rights Hotline."

But it was the invasion of Afghanistan that roused them to action. In 2002 Dedrick helped organize Seattle's VFP Chapter 92 and served as its first president. Today it has 150 members and is one of six chapters in the state of Washington.

The Seattle chapter has a pool of half a dozen members who do tabling at state conventions of school officials - counselors, superintendents, principals - where they talk about a key provision of the No Child Left Behind (NCLB) act where, every fall, students can "opt out" of the requirement that the school give the student's name and contact information to the military. "I see a potential for some structural institution changes with this approach," Dedrick says.

The approach, which is only two or three years old, was developed with Washington Truth in Recruiting, where Dedrick serves on the board. "We pay for a table and make our spiel, Dedrick says."

Of course, Dedrick and his VFP colleagues continue to go out to schools to talk to kids directly, describing what a war looks like, what it feels like to be in a war, military life, the economics of war.

"Once I was telling some students about some prisoners who were tortured and seeing kids that were killed, and one student said, 'I can't believe they let you come in here and say that.' But, generally, it's throwing a pebble into a pond: you never know who that ripple is going to reach," Dedrick observes, then adds philosophically, "It's a short life and you've got a limited amount of resources. My priority is to educate kids about war and militarism."

Dedrick had hoped to make a presentation on counter-recruiting, but by the time he contacted convention planners, one Jim Murphy from Ithaca, New York, had already made that request. "So I called him up and piggy backed," Dedrick says. When the two men met for the first time in Portland, they recognized they'd had parallel lives.

Jim Murphy served on temporary duty in Vietnam in 1966, and again in 1968 as an Air Force radioman. Seven years ago, he retired as dean of a NYC public high school, a career of 23 years. An anti-war activist since 1971, Murphy is currently with the Veterans Fellowship of Reconciliation chapter in Ithaca, and he co-founded New York Veterans Speak Out, which does truth-in-recruiting presentations in NYC and around the state.

On Friday morning, Dedrick begins their workshop, "Military Recruiters in Public Schools: Counter-recruiting in High Schools and Advocating for Model School District Policies," with a characteristically blunt statement:

"The military has been treating our schools as a press-gang operation," he says, then goes on to describe the success of the Washington strategy of targeting school administrators.

Dedrick points out that the No Child Left Behind provision is not the whole problem. "For years before (NCLB), many schools were already giving the military carte blanche information on students," he says. "And I don't trust Facebook and Monster.com not to be turning all the information they collect over to the military. So it may be that opt out is not so meaningful anymore. But it does get us into the schools."

When approaching superintendents and principals, he advises his audience, don't talk in political terms, but rather politely point out that their job as educators is to honor students' rights to information, including balanced information on controversial issues.

"Go to a school board meeting," Dedrick advises. "Write a letter asking

transparency and holding our government accountable."

The presenter is Jeff Paterson, a young Christopher Walken look-alike who was the first public resister to the 1991 Gulf War. He founded Courage to Resist, which raised the money to get Manning a civilian attorney and pressured the government to get Manning moved from Quantico to the Joint Regional Corrections Facility at Fort Leavenworth. Since the move, Courage to Resist reports, Manning's overall mood has improved, he is regularly in touch with his new defense team, and is allowed visits from his family.

This year, the Iraq Veterans Against the War (IVAW) is holding its own convention jointly with VFP, though because of dual membership (two Iraq vets serve on the national VFP board) and the inter-generational

Task Force of the National Lawyer's Guild, which has provided legal support to vets since Vietnam

The session ends with facilitator Gerry Condon reminding us that President Carter campaigned on the issue of draft-resister amnesty, and that it was his first act as president, in January 1977. He made it possible for AWOL soldiers to return to a U.S. base and be processed. "It was not an automatic amnesty," Condon says, "but it was in the spirit of leniency."

It is late Friday afternoon, and the auditorium is filling with people ready to hear S. Brian Willson talk about "Going AWOL from the American Way of Life." Willson, who has a lifetime of protests, was in the national spotlight in 1987 when he lay in the path of a munitions train that accelerated and took off his legs.

I don't go into the auditorium. Though I plan to read Willson's new book, "Blood on the Tracks," I can't absorb one more word. Rather, I want time to think about all the passion and anger, energy and resolve, determination and hope of these two days.

As we come up on the 10-year anniversary of the so-called War on Terror, I believe there is no more important task than to encourage and support resistance inside the military, and VFP are pointing to a variety of ways we can all contribute.

But also, I want to listen to the haunting voice of Melissa Steinman, still with me from "The Welcome," where she is seen reading her poem about Viet Nam vets reaching out to the GIs in Iraq:

*"... we're most of the way up the hill,
but we saw you coming, so we ran
all the way back
to get you.
Don't get me wrong. The path is
narrow and uphill in all directions,
but we have cleared most of the
brush before you,
and as long as it takes,
we will walk it with you."*

Portland author Martha Gies is the daughter of Lt. Carl Parker Gies (1915-64), World War II pilot and recipient of the Distinguished Flying Cross. She is also the newest associate member of Veteran's for Peace.



if the district has a public policy in place."

In New York, Murphy and his colleagues give presentations in the South Bronx and Washington Heights, places where the "poverty draft" is vigorously at work, that is, the military's campaign to target low-income neighborhoods with promises - very questionable promises - of education and jobs.

"You ask an African-American adolescent in NY high school: How do you feel about the term 'sand nigger.' You can see you're getting a rise out of him. 'Well, that's what you're going to hear every day if you sign up,' I tell him. 'And you're going to accept that. And that's when you know they own you.' We make sure the kids know that basic training is an experience in racism."

Joanne Luchini is in the audience with hand-outs to distribute at this workshop. The stepped-up recruitment effort under the NCLB Act got more civilians involved, and Luchini works through a Portland organization called Recruiter Watch PDX. Her volunteer work is a conspicuous example of how civilians can partner with veterans to do this work, though she is quick to point out that, when it comes to telling the truth about war or military culture, it's the veterans who have the credibility.

As one of the many thousands of people who support Bradley Manning, the young Army intelligence analyst accused of leaking to WikiLeaks a video showing a US Apache helicopter crew killing two Reuters journalists and other civilians in Iraq, I arrive early for the Friday afternoon panel, Campaign to Free Bradley Manning and All GI Resisters.

"We are reclaiming the path of

camaraderie, there's no sense of separation.

According to Daniel Shea, IVAW has modeled themselves on the film "Sir! No Sir!" by opening GI coffee houses. Jorge González is on the Resisters panel to briefly describe his work at Coffee Strong, an Internet café within blocks of Tacoma's Fort Lewis. The café provides a safe place for active duty soldiers, military families and veterans to discuss war, deployment, PTSD and the hardships of life in the military. Movie nights and concerts attract soldiers who live on base and are looking for a hangout; once there, they can make connections to the GI Rights Hotline, National Lawyers Guild, Soldiers Project NW, Women Organizing Women, and Pack Parachute - that is, organizations that provide information and services.

"Vets and civilians have a role in helping them make connections," González cautions, "but it has to be soldiers doing it themselves."

Sarah Bjorknas has come down from Vancouver, B.C. to talk about their policy, now in its seventh year, of welcoming war resisters at the Catholic Worker House on East Pender Street. She explains their program of advising about legal status, offering hospitality and social support, while trying to persuade the Canadian government to get on the side of sheltering war resisters. She is dismayed that the government, which has now turned right, is not inclined to repeat the generosity of 1966-72, when 16,000 U.S. male immigrants (considered a solid estimate and probably low) crossed the border, largely congregating in Toronto's Yorktown and in Vancouver.

Kathy Gilbert is on the program briefly, talking about the Military Law



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Top Cincy Baby Names

SUSAN LAKES
 Streetvibes Staff Writer

Go to a high school graduation in 2028 and you'll likely see lots of Williams and Olivias marching down the aisle, getting diplomas. Those were the tops two names parents selected for babies born in 2010, according to a list released by the Cincinnati Health Department's Vital Records Office.

Of the 3,657 babies born in 2010, here's a list of the top ten names:

Boys

1. William
2. Jacob
3. Noah
4. Michael
5. Ethan
6. Benjamin
7. Elijah
8. Aiden
9. Jackson
10. Logan



Girls

1. Olivia
2. Isabella
3. Ava
4. Emma
5. Sophia
6. Madison
7. Elizabeth
8. Samantha
9. Brooklyn
10. Audrey



The City of Cincinnati's Vital Records office is the third largest in the state, issuing 48,000 birth certificates and 18,000 death certificates last year.

The Board of Health recently lowered the cost for birth certificates by \$5.00, to \$22.00 because of office efficiency and to keep prices competitive. Customers may apply for and get copies of certified birth certificates at 1525 Elm Street, first floor, or by mail. For more information about vital records, please call (513) 352-3120 or visit the office online at www.cincinnati-oh.gov/health.

Streetvibes Readers Rally to Help Distributor

SUSAN LAKES
 Streetvibes Staff Writer

James Brown won't have to buy a brand new bag. A nice person returned the bulky green backpack thieves snatched, and the kind people Brown calls "my Kroger family" hooked him up with a new phone to help offset his losses.

Brown's misfortune happened a few weeks ago. That humid, sunny Monday had started out just like most. He reported to Vine and Central Parkway, stacks of the latest edition of *Streetvibes* in hand. Brown has been a popular distributor in that same location for two years.

When Brown noticed a woman having bicycle problems across the street from his regular post, he walked over to lend her a helping hand.

The unthinkable happened. Brown spent a few minutes on the bike prob-

lem, returned to his regular spot, but things were different. His backpack---the one that held his identification, documents, papers and cell phone---was gone. "I've been selling in this spot for two years, and nobody has bothered that bag," he said. "Those punks were just being funny and trying to get something over (on me)."

The thought of what had happened temporarily immobilized Brown. He sat alone in the hot sun, hands covering his face and thought about what to do. He decided to walk the short distance to the Greater Cincinnati Coalition for the Homeless on Twelfth Street to buy another stack of papers.

Brown got a surprise when he arrived at the coalition office. An unknown someone had found the backpack the thieving people had practically emptied out and dumped on the street. "My phone, my old phone, they took that. They left the battery and the

back but took the phone," he said.

Brown recovered from the loss, thanks to some people with big hearts. The still unnamed person who returned the bag stopped by to tell Brown what had happened, and his customers from Kroger hooked him up with a new phone along with some prepaid minutes.

"I got good people at the Kroger building who got me a phone," he said. "That's my Kroger family." There's a whole bunch of them," he said, adding that he considers even the ones who don't buy papers from him family since they are kind enough to speak to him.

Coalition worker, Georgia Bohannon works closely with Brown and the other distributors. She's touched but not at all surprised by what happened. "They (Brown's customers) love him down there," she said. "Every time I walk by there he's introducing me to someone."



The generous gift from James' "Kroger family" demonstrates the close friendship that exists between many *Streetvibes* distributors and their customers. **Photo: Susan Lakes**

My Distributor Is...

Many *Streetvibes* readers buy their copy of the paper from the person they consider to be their regular distributor. Every two weeks you walk by that same spot and look out for that friendly smile announcing that the latest issue of *Streetvibes* has arrived.

We would like to hear from you and publish your positive thoughts about the person from whom you pick up your copy of this paper. We invite you to write a line or two, starting with the phrase "My distributor is," that describes your *Streetvibes* distributor.

Please email your observations to : Streetvibes@cincihomeless.org

Streetvibes Editor Misplaces Editorial

JASON DEAN
 Streetvibes Editor

Change, change, change! There's been a lot of changes in the paper and there will probably be a few more. Change can sometimes be a bad thing when inconsistency places people on unstable ground, but often it can be good if it is related to growth; *Streetvibes* is indeed growing and evolving as we become more engrained in the culture and politics of the Cincinnati landscape. Ironically, however, our humble paper would love to see the day when we were not needed. Much like other nonprofits and social justice agencies we dream of the day that our mission is complete; a day for us when everyone has affordable housing and there is not a need for street papers or homeless coalitions. But until that dream becomes a reality we shall be here providing economic opportunities for our vendors and a voice for those experiencing homelessness.

In the past few issues of *Streetvibes*, and with several future issues, certain sections of the paper have shifted in an effort to make this a better paper for its readers and a better resource for those experiencing homelessness and low incomes. The biggest change with the current issue that you hold in your hands is the following four pages, the center of

the paper. Information regarding our distributor program now sits on page 7, Jeni's delicious recipes remain on page 8, a new section called "Agencies in Action" is on page 9, and the list of "Resources" has moved from the back of the paper to page 10. This shift is designed to make the center pages double as a sort of pamphlet that can be pulled out from the paper and shared with someone experiencing homelessness to give him, or her, an instant list of resources and opportunities in Cincinnati. Of course, you could also donate the entire paper to someone if you wish (and buy a second copy from your *Streetvibes* distributor), but having the removable center pages allows for a convenient list that can easily be placed in a pocket.

Our new section on page 8, "Agencies in Action," will see each new issue of *Streetvibes* feature one of the many organizations that are working hard to help people experiencing homelessness in Cincinnati. *Streetvibes* staff reporter Susan Lakes will inform us of the agency's history, mission, work, needs, and hopes for the future. Every two weeks this section will place a face and fill in the details of the organizations you may have heard of or seen on our list of resources. We need to celebrate the good work being done by hardworking people to make Cincinnati a place where we can all live with comfort and dignity.

I purchased my first copy of Streetvibes today from distributor Larry Brown. Larry was exceptionally polite and personable. I also found the paper to be well written and full of interesting community news. This will not be my last purchase from Larry!

Thank you,

Mrs. Emily Hubbard

Distributor Program

STREETVIBES IS DISTRIBUTED BY INDIVIDUALS WHO PURCHASE THE PAPER FOR 25 CENTS PER COPY AND SELL IT FOR A \$1 DONATION, KEEPING THE PROFIT THEY HAVE EARNED. BECOMING A DISTRIBUTOR IS A GREAT WAY FOR INDIVIDUALS WHO ARE FINANCIALLY POOR TO GET BACK ON (OR STAY ON) THEIR FEET. THIS PROGRAM PROVIDES SUPPLEMENTAL INCOME FOR THOSE UNABLE TO SECURE OTHER EMPLOYMENT. MONEY EARNED HELPS MEET BASIC HOUSING, FOOD AND HEALTH CARE NEEDS. THE PROGRAM IS A HAND UP FOR PEOPLE WHO ARE OFTEN IN A PLACE OF GETTING ONLY A HAND OUT, OR EVEN NO HAND AT ALL. ALL DISTRIBUTORS WEAR A BADGE AND CAN BE FOUND SELLING THE PAPER IN DOWNTOWN CINCINNATI, CLIFTON, NORTHERN KENTUCKY AND AREA CHURCHES.

CURRENT DISTRIBUTORS

ALFRED WOOLFOLK SINCE 10/2003	BERTA LAMBERT SINCE 1997	BRANDON NELSON SINCE 4/2008	BRIAN BEESON NEW 8/2011	CRAIG FITCH SINCE 7/2011
CRANDALL COBB SINCE 2004	GEORGE CHANDLER SINCE 7/2011	GRADY COOK SINCE 8/2007	JAMES BROWN SINCE 3/2009	JAMES BURRESS SINCE 4/2009
JAMES BYBEE SINCE 9/2010	JAMES DAVIS SINCE 8/2003	JAMES MOORE SINCE 11/2010	JERRY DAVIS SINCE 5/2011	JIMMIE GIPSON SINCE 2001
JOHN GAINES SINCE 12/2009	JON DARBY SINCE 2/2006	JOSEPHINE BASKERVILLE SINCE 9/2008	JULIE WALKER SINCE 6/2007	KAREN COLLETTE SINCE 7/2008
KEITH EUTSEY SINCE 2/2011	KENNETH STONITSCH SINCE 12/2007	KIM GREEN SINCE 1/2010	LARRY BROWN SINCE 10/2007	LEE MCCOY SINCE 7/2009
LEONARD JACKSON SINCE 2/2005	MARK CAMPBELL SINCE 3/2006	MARK ANTHONY SHEARS SINCE 12/2007	MARY MUELLER SINCE 5/2005	RAESHAWN GIPSON SINCE 3/2009
RAYNARD JONES SINCE 10/2008	RONNIE PHILLIPS SINCE 10/2009	SAMUEL JACKSON SINCE 10/2006	SHANNON MOATS NEW 3/2011	TERRY RANSON SINCE 10/2008
TIA CASS SINCE 11/2007	TIM NEUMANN NEW 7/2011	TONY THOMAS SINCE 3/2005	TOMMY THOMPSON SINCE 2/2009	Victoria MINOR NEW 3/2011
WILLIAM BURDINE SINCE 8/2009	WILLA JONES SINCE 1/2010	W. KENNETH BUSSELL SINCE 10/2009	WILLIE LEE JONES NEW 1/2011	

Distributor Code of Conduct:

1. Streetvibes will be distributed for one dollar (\$1). I agree not to ask for more than a dollar or solicit donations for Streetvibes by any other means. If a customer donates more than \$1 for a paper, I am allowed to keep the donation.
2. I will only purchase papers from the Greater Cincinnati Coalition for the Homeless (GCCH). Each paper can be purchased for a cost of 25 cents. I will always show my badge when buying papers and if I do not have my badge I cannot buy papers.
3. I will never buy papers from and/or distribute papers to other distributors.
4. I agree to treat all others – customers, staff, and other distributors – respectfully. I will not use abusive language or force someone to buy a paper. I will not give a “hard sell” or be aggressive. I will not continue to ask someone if they want a Streetvibes after they have verbally or non-verbally said no and I will not make someone feel threatened.
5. I will not panhandle while distributing Streetvibes.
6. I agree to stay off private property when distributing Streetvibes. I will not distribute Streetvibes door to door.
7. I will not stand in front of doorways, walkways, crosswalks or parking meters nor will I impede traffic or sit down while distributing Streetvibes.
8. I understand that I am not an employee of Streetvibes or GCCH but a contracted worker responsible for my own well-being and income.
9. I agree not to distribute additional goods or products when distributing Streetvibes.
10. I will not distribute Streetvibes or purchase Streetvibes under the influence of drugs or alcohol.
11. There are no territories among distributors. However, I will respect the space of other distributors, particularly the space of distributors who have been at a spot longer.
12. It is unacceptable for any distributor to persuade or ask customers not to purchase Streetvibes from other distributors. Coercion will not be tolerated. If a customer prefers to purchase from certain distributors that is up to them.
13. I understand that my badge is the property of Streetvibes and I will not deface it. I will present my badge when purchasing papers and display my badge when distributing papers. If I lose my badge I will pay three dollars (\$3) for a new one. If I lose my lanyard I must pay (\$1) for a new one. If my badge becomes ruined because of weather or use, I will get a new badge for one dollar (\$1).
14. I understand that Streetvibes strives to be a paper that covers homelessness and poverty issues while providing an economic opportunity for individuals looking for extra income. I will try to help in this effort and spread the word.
15. I will not deceive the public by saying that I am collecting for a nonprofit charity or that I am collecting for the “homeless” in general. I will be in honest in stating that all the profits from the sale of Streetvibes go to the distributor. I will only use the word “donation” when referring to myself, not the Coalition.
16. There are special rules for distributing at Findlay Market. Only distributors with approval may distribute at Findlay Market at a time. Other rules as established by Streetvibes and Findlay Market.
17. I will attend monthly meetings. Monthly meetings occur every 4 weeks on Fridays at 1PM, (dates are posted in the lobby) these meetings are mandatory. Anyone who cannot make the meeting must talk with the Distributor Program Coordinator, before distributing Streetvibes for that month. Ten papers will be given to those who attend the meeting.
18. It is the responsibility of each distributor to police fellow distributors or former distributors. I will report violators of the rules to GCCH. The value of the paper depends on keeping it credible.
19. I understand that any infraction of the above mentioned rules will result in suspension of my privilege to distribute Streetvibes and possible termination from the program. Badges and Streetvibes papers are property of GCCH and must be surrendered upon demand.

For questions or comments pertaining to the distributor program contact:
Jeni Jenkins, Distributor Program Manager.
Ph:513.421.7803 Ext. 14
jenjenkins@cincihomeless.org

FEED ME SEYMOUR...
FEED ME ALL NIGHT LONG!
BY JENI JENKINS

The title of this column is taken from the 1986 film "Little Shop of Horrors," where a plant keeper must meet the demands of a ravenous plant that feeds on humans. Instead of plants that feed on people, this column is for people who feed on plants!!



CREAMY RAVIOLI & ITALIAN VEGETABLES

Saucy, cheesy, yummy!

While eating out of the freezer isn't ideal, from time to time having frozen food on hand, ready and available can be a life saver. For me, when I've come home after a long day at the office, at times the last thing on mind is cooking. But if I am famished enough, I get the job done. I made this recipe on one of THOSE days, when I went all day without a meal and I really needed to make something quick. I scoured my fridge, freezer and cupboard until I came up with this. To my surprise it was super tasty. I hope you enjoy! Serving size, 4-6 bellies.

Ingredients:

- 1(25 oz) bag frozen Cheese Ravioli
- 2 tablespoons olive oil
- 2 cloves garlic, minced
- 1 (16 oz) bag frozen Italian style vegetables
- 1 cup pasta sauce
- 1 cup sour cream
- 1 cup shredded mozzarella cheese

Directions:

- Cook the ravioli according to the directions on the package. Drain and return it to the pasta pot.
- Heat the oil in large non-stick skillet over medium heat. Add garlic and cook for 30 seconds.
- Add the frozen vegetables and cook until tender, stirring occasionally, about 6 minutes.
- To save on pots, add the pasta sauce and sour cream to the veggie mixture in the skillet, bring to a slow simmer, stirring constantly, about 4 minutes.
- Add the shredded mozzarella and stir until melted.
- Add the sauce to the pasta pot and toss to combine.
- Voila, FEED!

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The Mary Magdalen House

SUSAN LAKES
Streetvibes Staff Writer

It's not exactly a pricey day spa, but for some people, it's more than that. Mary Magdalen House is a place where guests can shower privately, use the toilet, freshen up, make a phone call and walk away wearing clean clothing.

Their hosts, the volunteers and staff, call them by name, too. That personal touch is just one of the features of Mary Magdalen House, a non-profit agency that reaches out to the homeless and extremely poor members of the Greater Cincinnati community. "Though not having a dime, we want them to feel like a million," said Giancarlo Bonutti, the center's director. "Dignity is the beginning of hope."

Bonutti put his words to action during a recent interview at the center. He sat behind a reception desk, scurrying to hand out bars of soap, towels, freshly laundered clothing and other necessities to those who waited in line for some spruce up time. For more than two decades, Mary Magdalen House has offered people relief from the stress and hardships of street life.

The numbers run about 90% male guests, but the center welcomes adult men and women. Bonutti and former director, John Martin, agree that guests tend to be a younger lot than what was true twenty years ago.

One shower is fully equipped to serve guests with physical handicaps,

including limited mobility. For three decades, it's offered people relief from the stress and hardships of street life.

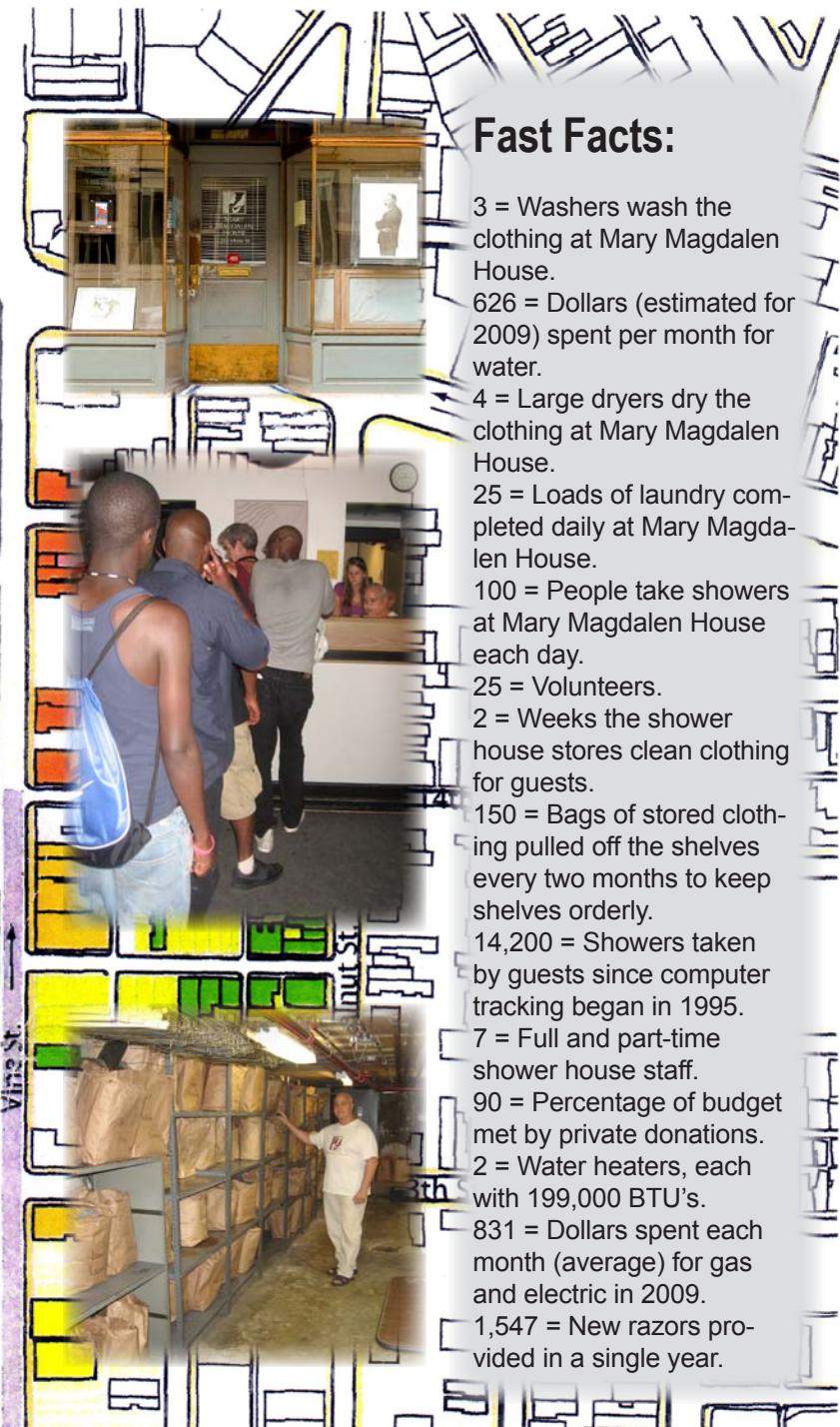
For volunteer, Ellie Logan, the center shows a whole new definition of dignity. "It takes a lot to keep this place going," she said, checking to make sure all supplies were in order and ready to distribute to guests for their afternoon oasis time. Logan began her volunteering when she was a student in a homeless course at University of Cincinnati.

Longtime volunteer, Portia Fuller, likes best the personal time with the guests. "I get to know the guys and ladies by name," she said. "Some people think homelessness equals worthlessness, and that's not a good stereotype."

Meanwhile, a long line forms. Guests sign in, hosts smile and chat with them. The lines shorten as groups of seven move from the reception area into one of the three black and blue tiled shower rooms, into one of the many individual stalls located next to the toilets, urinals, mirrors and counters.

Below, washers and dryers hum, cleaning one of the twenty-five daily loads. The two just a hair short of boiler size hot water heaters run continuously.

And another day goes by at the place that was once a former butcher shop until someone had a dream and decided to put tons of love into giving to others.



Fast Facts:

3 = Washers wash the clothing at Mary Magdalen House.

626 = Dollars (estimated for 2009) spent per month for water.

4 = Large dryers dry the clothing at Mary Magdalen House.

25 = Loads of laundry completed daily at Mary Magdalen House.

100 = People take showers at Mary Magdalen House each day.

25 = Volunteers.

2 = Weeks the shower house stores clean clothing for guests.

150 = Bags of stored clothing pulled off the shelves every two months to keep shelves orderly.

14,200 = Showers taken by guests since computer tracking began in 1995.

7 = Full and part-time shower house staff.

90 = Percentage of budget met by private donations.

2 = Water heaters, each with 199,000 BTU's.

831 = Dollars spent each month (average) for gas and electric in 2009.

1,547 = New razors provided in a single year.

How Do I Find The Shower House: Mary Magdalen House is located on the west side of Main Street, just north of 12th Street in Over-The-Rhine. If you're downtown, head north on Main Street which is a one-way street. The address is 1223 Main Street, and the phone number is (513) 721-4811. Visit the center online at marymagdalenhouse.org.

Background: Founders of the shower house saw individuals being forced to toilet in parks, parking lots, driveways or stoops. The needy people flocked to Old Saint Mary's Church, saying they wanted to work. Work was unlikely since many of them were dirty and unshaven, and lacked access to phones for appointments. The Rev. Dohrman W. Byers, Mrs. Mary Heller and a family in the parish birthed the idea of Mary Magdalen House. It opened March 25, 1988.

The Details: Mary Magdalen House is open for showers every day except for Sunday. No appointment is necessary. The hours are 8a.m. – noon and 1p.m. – 4p.m. Monday through Friday, and 8a.m. – noon on Saturday. Guests take showers on a first come, first served basis. First time guests receive a change of clothing. Also, guests can chose to have the center do their laundry. Telephones are available.

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Shelter: Women and Children

Central Access Point (Family Shelter Hotline)	381-SAFE
Cincinnati Union Bethel 300 Lytle Street, Cinti, Ohio 45202	768-6907
Bethany House 1841 Fairmount Ave, Cinti, Ohio 45214	557-2873
Grace Place Catholic Worker House 6037 Cary Ave, Cinti, Ohio 45224	681-2365
Salvation Army 131 E. 12th Street, Cinti, Ohio 45202	762-5660
YWCA Battered Women's Shelter	872-9259

1730 Race Street, Cinti, Ohio 45202

St. Francis Soup Kitchen	535-2719
Churches Active in Northside 4230 Hamilton Ave, Cinti, Ohio 45223	591-2246
FreeStore/FoodBank 112 E. Liberty Street, Cinti, Ohio 45202	241-1064
Madisonville Ed & Assistance Center 4600 Erie Ave, Cinti, Ohio 45227	271-5501
Serves area codes: 45226, 45227, 45208, 45209	
St. Vincent de Paul 1125 Bank Street, Cinti, Ohio 45214	562-8841

Crossroad Health Center 381-2247

5 E. Liberty St. Cinti, Ohio 45202	357-4602
Health Resource Center	352-2902
Homeless Mobile Health Van	352-6363
McMicken Dental Clinic 40 E. McMicken Ave, Cinti, Ohio 45202	558-8888
Mental Health Access Point	981-5800
Mercy Franciscan at St. John 1800 Logan St. Cinti, Ohio 45202	458-6670
NAMI of Hamilton County	977-4489
PATH Outreach	

Shelter: Men

City Gospel Mission 1419 Elm Street, Cinti, Ohio 45202	241-5525
Justice Watch	241-0490
St. Fran/St. Joe Catholic Work. House 1437 Walnut Street, Cinti, Ohio 45202	381-4941
Mt. Airy Shelter	661-4620

Treatment: Men

Charlie's 3/4 House 2121 Vine Street, Cinti, Ohio 45202	784-1853
Prospect House 682 Hawthorne Ave, Cinti, Ohio 45205	921-1613
Starting Over	961-2256

Other Resources

Center Independent Living Options	241-2600
Emmanuel Community Center	241-2563
1308 Race St. Cinti, Ohio 45202	
Peaslee Neighborhood Center 214 E. 14th St. Cinti, Ohio 45202	621-5514
Franciscan Haircuts from the Heart 1800 Logan St. Cinti, Ohio 45202	381-0111
Goodwill industries	771-4800
Healing Connections	751-0600
Mary Magdalen House 1223 Main St. Cinti, Ohio 45202	721-4811
People Working Cooperatively	351-7921
The Caring Place	631-1114
United Way	211
Women Helping Women	977-5541
Off The Streets	421-5211

Shelter: Both

Anthony House (Youth) 2728 Glendora Ave, Cinti, Ohio 45209	961-4080
Caracole (HIV/AIDS) 1821 Summit Road, Cinti, Ohio 45237	761-1480
Drop Inn Center 217 W. 12th Street, Cinti, Ohio 45202	721-0643
Interfaith Hospitality Network	471-1100
Lighthouse Youth Center (Youth) 3330 Jefferson, Cinti, Ohio 45220	221-3350

Treatment: Both

AA Hotline	351-0422
CCAT	381-6672
830 Ezzard Charles Dr. Cinti, Ohio 45214	
Joseph House (Veterans) 1522 Republic Street, Cinti, Ohio 45202	241-2965
Hamilton County ADAS Board	946-4888
Recovery Health Access Center	281-7422
Sober Living	681-0324
Talbert House	641-4300

Hamilton/Middletown

St. Raephals	863-3184
Salvation Army	863-1445
Serenity House Day Center	422-8555
Open Door Pantry	868-3276

Housing:

CMHA	721-4580
Excel Development	632-7149
OTR Community Housing 114 W. 14th Street, Cinti, Ohio 45202	381-1171
Tender Mercies 27 W. 12th Street, Cinti, Ohio 45202	721-8666
Tom Geiger House	961-4555
Dana Transitional Bridge Services	751-0643
Volunteers of America	381-1954
Anna Louise Inn	421-5211

Advocacy

Catholic Social Action	421-3131
Community Action Agency	569-1840
Contact Center 1227 Vine Street, Cinti, Ohio 45202	381-4242
Franciscan JPIC	721-4700
Gr. Cinti Coalition for the Homeless 117 E. 12th Street, Cinti, Ohio 45202	421-7803
Intercommunity Justice & Peace Cr.	579-8547
Legal Aid Society	241-9400
Ohio Justice & Policy Center	421-1108
Faces Without Places	363-3300

Northern Kentucky

Brighton Center	859-491-8303
799 Ann St. Newport, KY	
ECHO/Hosea House	859-261-5857
Fairhaven Resuce Mission	859-491-1027
Homeward Bound Youth	859-581-1111
Mathews House	859-261-8009
Homeless & Housing Coalition	859-727-0926
Parish Kitchen	859-581-7745
Pike St. Clinic	859-291-9321
Transitions, Inc	859-491-4435
Welcome House of NKY 205 West Pike Street, Covington, KY 41011	859-431-8717
Women's Crisis Center	859-491-3335
VA Domiciliary	859-559-5011
VA Homeless	859-572-6226

Food/Clothing

Lord's Pantry	621-5300
OTR/Walnut Hills Kitchen & Pantry OTR: 1620 Vine Street, Cinti, Ohio 45202 Walnut Hills: 2631 Gilbert, Cinti, Ohio 45206	961-1983
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Health

Center for Respite Care 3550 Washington Ave, Cinti, Ohio 45229	621-1868
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In the Mix

RICCARDO TAYLOR
Staff Writer

Often times we find ourselves in the mix of the streets, and as often we realize that we are in above our heads and yet we continue to mix it up. Now if I didn't quite make that clear then let's put it another way. The life on the streets takes on many twist and turns almost never leading to a conclusion but rather adding more twist and turns! Then on those occasions when we have the opportunity to look back, we see where things went array or at best how we caused ourselves more inconveniences. So, we are in a perpetual state of questioning ourselves as to why, how and if.

Insanity they say it's doing the same things expecting different results, I say it's doing the same things knowing the results! So the questioning seemingly is easy too resolve, but is it really? We make a mistake, and then find ourselves ill at ease, trying to figure out the why? Why did I do this, why was I there, why, why, why! Then we finally conclude that it goes with the territory, so we stop questioning why, and just chalk it up to the game! Of course during this whole episode we are convincing ourselves that we won't go that way or do that again!

Then comes the most depressing ques-

tion. How did I let that happen? How can I fix this or that? How do I make that right? The how is most profound because we have so many answers, so many alternatives, so many resolves, yet no real answers as to how! Well, again we are chalking it up to the game! Dawning our usual thinking, we won't do that again!

Now we are at our most common review. If only I had! If I had done this or that then this or that would not have happened! If I had just took more time, if I had went in that direction, if, if, if, how ease to place blame! But then

why place blame? And the questioning goes on and on why, how and if! Of course it's the same old line, "chalk it up to the game!"

So, here we are at standstill, trying to figure which way to

turn. We understand what is up ahead and we also know what's behind, yet like the toss salad of life we continue find ourselves in the mix!

Sometimes our senses come into play and we think outside the box. What? What do I do to get out of the mix? Ideally a proclamation is in order so we start to seek out ways to relieve ourselves of the whys, how's and ifs. It is at these times when we are most vulnerable. It is here that we are faced with the reality that what we know best isn't what's best for us! Instilled with the old mind-set of do or die we start to mix even more so! Confusion can lead to relapse into



Riccardo Taylor. Photo: GCCH

the very things we are trying to alleviate that pattern of destructive thinking and acting! That same old mix that we so badly want to extract ourselves from. Why me, how did I, what if? They all are an integral part of being in the mix, so the question remains, how do we satisfy the stirring that is the mix of our lives.

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Follow the Money, Invest in Solutions

SUSAN LAKES
Streetvibes Staff Writer

Jerry Lewis called Matt and Joel his kids. They weren't. They were my sister's beloved sons, my very own nephews and my parents' grandchildren.

Lewis, the comedian, hosts the annual telethon that raises funds for neuromuscular diseases, including the awful kind of muscular dystrophy that crippled and then slowly killed Matt and Joel.

He's the longtime spokesperson for The Muscular Dystrophy Association, or MDA as it's commonly called during the annual fundraising telethon.

My sister despised that telethon weekend. She called Lewis a phony, and vowed never to support or take support for her children from anything MDA-related.

Instead of Lewis and his ilk, my big sister turned her hopes for "cured"

children to a small muscular dystrophy foundation based in Indianapolis. It was founded and run by a doctor who devoted his life to finding a cure for Duchene Muscular Dystrophy. The doctor bound my nephews in braces for his research. He periodically sliced muscle tissue from their calves and examined the tissue to check for improvements.

I'm not sure what the final outcome looked like. If Joel and Matt showed improvement, it was short-lived. Matt, the oldest, died first. He was in his early thirties. Joel died at about the same age a few years later. I miss their beautiful smiles. I miss their spunk and spirit, especially Matt's.

One time, Matt was driving his motorized wheelchair too fast through a pharmacy aisle, and knocked over a big display. He turned it into a hit and run incident! Yep. Matt watched that display fall, and then high-tailed it home.

My sister, being the great mom

that she is, treated this speeding incident just like she would have had Matt been able to walk and drive a car. She had the police give Matt a speeding lecture, then made him apologize to the pharmacist.

I think a lot about Matt and Joel when I decide which service gets my hard earned money. This thought process began back in the '70s when they were babies and when I first started working.

The job encouraged us to give to United Way, so I did. (Looking back, I think there was some kind of contest going on that our agency leaders wanted to win). I filled out the form, picked the Muscular Dystrophy Foundation, had the payroll deduction and basically forgot about the money that was being pulled from my check, until ...

About a year later when I noticed my name didn't appear on the list of donors for the foundation. I called and told them how much I had given, and found out that none of my

money had made it to the foundation. It seems my employer had not communicated my consent and "given" all that money to The United Way, but not to the specific charity I selected.

I was hot. I felt duped. I couldn't get them to understand that I wanted to pick exactly where my donations landed. I insisted that they find the money and immediately forward it to The Muscular Dystrophy Foundation, the place that offered so much hope and solace to my sister's family.

I can't even remember what happened, but I do know this; nowadays my donations had better go to the right place, and the recipient organization/agency had by golly better use it for what it says it will. If not, I'm prepared this time to call in government agencies, fraud units and even the IRS. I just might even call in the big guns with homeland security! That's how very seriously I take investing in real solutions.

The Cheetah and the Pig

NICHOLAS HOESL
Contributing Writer

We all heard of the Olympian competition that decided the fastest cheetah in the world, pitting the Cincinnati Zoo's Sara against a cheetah in South Africa named ZaZa, each soloing on their own turf. After Sara's three timed runs at the Kentucky Speedway infield in Sparta, Sara claimed the world record for the 100 meter dash.

"This was not just for fun," said Cathryn Hilker, who founded the zoo's Cat Ambassador Program. "It's to look at the cheetah in awe and say, 'We must not lose this glorious animal.'"

Zoo patrons know all to well what happened on September 1, 1914, when Martha, the last passenger pigeon in the world died in captivity at the Cincinnati Zoo. The population of cheetahs has dwindled from about 100,000 at the turn of the century to 12,500.

All of this brings to mind my participation in the zoo's annual "Cheetah Run," a three mile Run/Walk within The Zoo several years ago.

Cars began pouring into the gates at 7:15 a.m. One of the best kept secrets was that you could load up your car with runners and non-runners to enjoy a family day at the Zoo without an entrance or parking fee. Also on tap was the Children's Fun Run around Swan Lake.

Parking the car in the Peacock Lot, I stroll-stretched into the pre-race crowd, when a megaphone man announced, "The Flying Pig has arrived." Decked out in my baggy pink pants with silver wings and pig-pug nose, I felt right at home with two-legged and four-legged creatures. I was also here to plug Cincinnati's "Fly-

ing Pigs Marathon" in May.

Most runners remember the infamous Rosie Ruiz when she cut short her route and claimed her crown in the New York Marathon by using the subway to receive 15 minutes of fame. I took the longer route in running "The Big Apple." Bumping into her, I asked what brought her to this race. "Oh, I no cheetah in this race. I come to town to see the Reds. Just call me "Rosie Red," as she flaunted her Scarlet O'Hara persona. But I needed to get focused if this was to be my day of swine and roses.

Then to my delight a zoo-keeper walks up to me with a real live cheetah. Her name was Moya. What a magnificent creature. This guy set the world speed record for land mammals, covering 100 meters in 6.6 seconds. We were in awe of her unassuming presence. Some were not surprised, considering that cheetahs go into schools and exhibitions, so why not see them up close and personal on their own turf? Asked about the dark malar stripes under the cheetah's eyes, we were told they were to keep the glare out of the eyes and enabling it to spot prey as far as three miles away. Everyone's adrenalin rose, not to mention the expectation of a fast course. I noticed the cheetah eyeing me from snout to tail, or was this a pigment of my imagination? There are no pigpens in the zoo. One employee thought a pigpen was something you write with.

OK, let's cut to the chase. At the crack of the gun, the runners headed out along the Zoo's outer perimeter. There was an unusual amount of joggers behind low-slung kiddy strollers, and one whimsical pig solidly in the rear.

As we rounded the oval the second time, Bengal fans were starting

to stir. Forget about football. We're talking real Bengals. Call it a reverse spectacle. "Run for your life," a guy yells as he flies by.

For me, the miles go easier when cracking a few jokes or belting out a song. I passed a group of zoo caretakers and couldn't help saying, "You can thank us for your break today."

Circling the famous Elephant and Giraffe House with the Indian Mogul dome, I asked a runner if he knew how to get an elephant out of the theatre. "You can't," he panted, "not if it's in his blood."

Rounding Monkey Island, we all wondered if the monkey was wondering whether he is his brother's keeper or his keeper's brother. More important, will the lead runners leave us any bananas?

Every time we passed the Passenger Pigeon Memorial and took a quick glance at Martha's statue, it was a time to reflect. Imagine if Martha was still around and the CREW (Center for Research of Endangered Wildlife) crossed the woodpecker with the carrier. You would get a bird that not only knocks on your door, but also delivers a message.

Asking Zoo employees why more animals are not watching the race, they replied, "they're mating." Then added, "If you had the choice, what would you do?" No wonder *Newsweek* called it "The World's Sexiest Zoo." To be fair to the primates, some do take up painting, but most watch "Planet of the Apes" re-runs.

By this time I was grunting and sweating, well, like a pig. My inner voice said "slow down." My alternate said "Hogwash."

Unexpectedly, I meandered off the trail. Peering over my pork shoulder, I spotted the cheetah in the distance. At first I thought "how quaint." This was

her names day, her back yard and now, her fun run. Hold on! Did the park install invisible fencing? No!

The cheetah flagged her long tail skyward. Oh God, the charge was on! Adrenalin, don't fail me now. At the Nocturnal House, I took off like a bat out of hell, squealing, running as fast as my hind legs could carry me. Was I to become a ham of draconian proportions? What would Doctor Dolittle do, besides chatting to the cheetah in Cheetonese? Would there be one less member of the World Wildlife Fund?

Feeling heavy breathing on my neck and wing tips, I veered off sharply with zigzags and did a double handstand leap over a canyon wall. The cheetah stopped cold. Peering down, she gave me a quizzical grin, as if to say, "Well, now I know pigs can fly." I also knew what it meant to be looking out instead of looking in. The game was over.

For the following year, Zoo officials advised me to come dressed in any other costume. "Cheetahs go wild over portly pink pigs," they remarked, "especially if they can catch one by themselves."

As for everyone else, they told me what is well known...running can save your life. Others said the whole episode reminded them of the movie "Charlotte's Web." Then they told me I was "Some Pig."

Join The Cheetah Run, Sunday, September 4, at 8 AM. Go to www.cincinnatizoo.org

Nicholas Hoesl, of Westwood, is author of "Laughter: The Drug of Choice," and "Jest Desserts of Cincinnati's 50 Plus."

Hidden History: Cincinnati's "Bubble-Fonts"

A. MANN
Contributing Writer

Along the Ohio River on the plaza that holds a piping memorial is nearby a familiar sight- a public drinking fountain. Often taken as a routine fixture for accessing potable water these joint fountains are in regard of their lasting features vastly significant. In plain view the iron bearing of these base receptacles initially relays the look of a practical appliance more than any ongoing symbolic offering representing a prime issuance to Cincinnati's heritage and growth.

On the basis of the first fountain, little is seen of any marked aspect beyond a useful button at hand. Further adaptation is visible from the basin that is pitted and though chromed inside, the bronze bowl is weather worn. The cissing felt of the outer rim has dredged up recollections partook of an alike fountain; hazily re-forming past romps in area parks and city jaunts with my Dad, or on especial times granddad. In this reverie a whispered memory increases an odd quip by my grandpa for this drinking device... a "bubble-font." This phrase prompts a release of a name recalling a sound stamp upon this fountain being set as Murdock.

Resuming up the pathway by Yeatman's Cove is a pedal-activated model inscribed on the treadle by the mark of J.G. Murdock & Co. with the surname cast into the base and also addressed as Cincinnati. O.

About a return route, a hop up-town to 4th St., whereby in a recess by the Christ Church is an august pedal-operated Murdock "bubble-font" continuing to promisingly provide vital intake to the people in the area.

Setting upon turning up any records for the inception of the old-est Murdock "Bubble-Font", surprisingly led to scant mention, even with local searches*. One source was a Cincinnati Post column by Si Cornell in 1978 from an article were J. Kelso Murdock related that John G. Murdock was a Scottish immigrant who on arrival in the States



in 1842 applied his plumbing skill, eventually opening a supply store downtown on 5th St. According to J. Kelso his ancestor invented a "non-freezing" fountain in 1853 that due to its bypass mechanism below the frost line meant that his fountain could be used year-round. This early claim led to delving into other sources that cited Harlan Huckleby- and as ceded Kohler- with the initial patent for the first "bubbler," from which the modern drinking fountain derived being issued in 1888, with further credit given to Halsey Wil-lard Taylor and Luther Haws for their wider ef-forts of sanitary drinking fonts in the early 1900's.

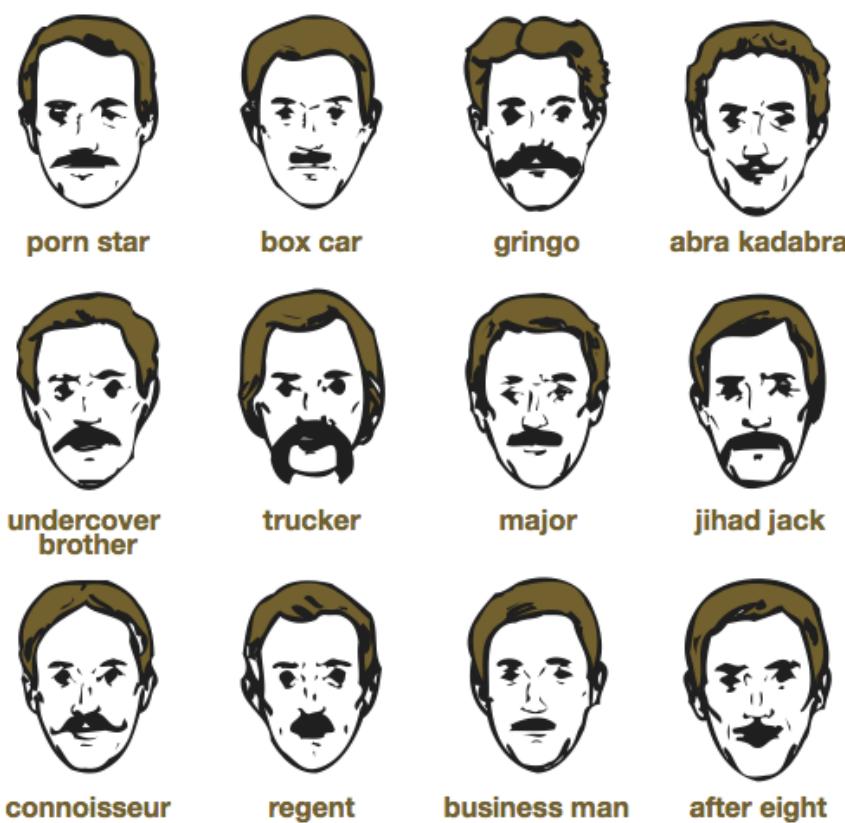
Why though has Murdock's name largely been left out of this prime development? Aided by an employee of the current company there was a clarifying

exchange made with Bob Murdock and his account was candid, deserving further detail than is within this article's given scope. Archival material from 158 years ago is subject to fugitive conditions and the past documents may have been lost, as Bob stated that many original records perished in a fire in the early 1900's at the building on 5th. St.. In further relay he shared that the patented system was originally installed within an "anti-freezing hydrant" mentioning that many are still in operation within Spring Grove Cemetery as well as some other extant fountains.

As for an inset date for the "bubble-font" on 4th St. it remains unknown, though Bob shared it may be the oldest in town, being rebuilt twice in the last 30 or 40 years. Towards a recall of any well-built fonts before that, he reckons it was likely in Eden Park that has since been replaced, while the prior landmark fountain accorded by J. Kelso remains flowing in French Park since 1890.

*Sincere thanks to Jeanne Strauss De Groote of the Genealogy and Local History Department in our Main Library, whose persistence and professional knowledge provided sources of reference when there seemingly were none in the system.

make cincinnati weird ☺ The Great Mustache Bash



Oh, the Mustache. By definition, it is facial hair on the outer surface of the upper lip. It has grown its way into our history on such notable faces as Salvador Dali, Groucho Marx, and Adolf Hitler. Mustaches come in more flavors than Graeters Ice Cream, including such beauties as the Walrus, the Horseshoe, the Pencil, the Chevron, the Toothbrush, and who would forget, the Fu Manchu?

Understanding that this persistent growth is undoubtedly ingrained into our past and certainly going to be involved in our future, a local group of hairy faces is celebrating the bristly, bushy, but always beautiful, mustache.

On Wednesday August 24, promotion site Yelp – along with co-sponsors Arnold's Bar and Grill, Far-I-Rome Productions, Christian Moerlein, Shutterbooth.com, and Vitamin Water – threw an event unlike any that Cincinnati has ever seen.

Men from all over Cincinnati brought their scruff, scraggle, or your facial fur and enjoyed conversation, competition, and music with similar folk.

Those not blessed with whiskered lips, strapped on some artificial fur and fit right in! Fake facial follicles were available at Arnold's for those who might have been left out.

Prizes were awarded for such amazingness as "Craziest Mustache", "Best Fake Mustache", and of course, plain old "Best Mustache".

Mustached musicians: the Kelsey Skaggs, The Turkeys, and Indigo Wild provided the sounds.

(Jake Gerth)

To learn more about the increasing weirdness of the Queen City visit www.makecincinnati weird.com

Feywill Inaugural Music Festival Rocks the Strasse

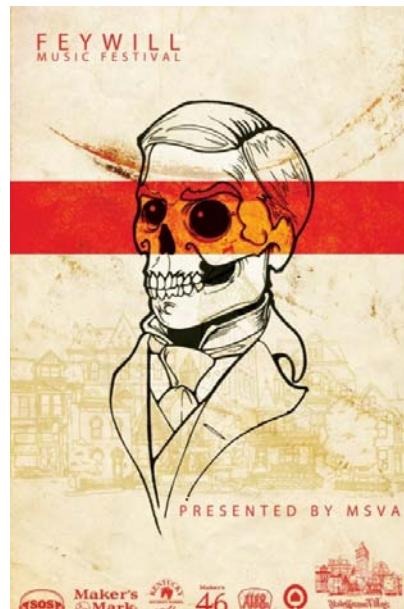
NICK GREVER
Contributing Writer

Cincinnati show promoters seem to love dichotomies. How else could you explain planning a weekend long festival, with over 50 bands, of varying genres and crowd types, and plop it all down in Covington's popular MainStrasse village? But, in between surf-rock bands performing in an Irish pub and a sleaze rock band playing in a dance club, music fans were able to enjoy all that the inaugural Feywill Music Festival had to offer, even if normal club attendees weren't so sold.

By any measure, Feywill was a massive undertaking, with a massive list of bands, spanning across several MainStrasse bars and Goebel's Park, effectively taking over the village for two nights. Perhaps due to Feywill's age, much of the usual MainStrasse crowd seemed a little unnerved by the invasion of local music fans, but that was half the fun. Seeing Banderas perform a floor show at Pachinko, amidst the sea of club-goers was a paradox that festival organizers surely relished. But the festival's bands seemed to make the very best of their various venues. MainStrasse standards, such as Cock and Bull, Zola and Strasse Haus were transformed, if only for two nights into music clubs. In fact, many of the venues saw a surge in attendance as the nights progressed and the bands started their sets. Being able to hear much of the bands from the street surely

brought in inquisitive ears, curious to see what all the fuss was about.

MainStrasse village's layout was perhaps the biggest benefit to the chosen location. The festival, spread across just a few blocks made traveling to see several different acts quickly very easy. Crossing from one end of the village to the other took but a few minutes, allowing fans to criss-cross their way across the festival. Combining this with the festival's cheap pricing for



nightly and weekend passes enabled music fans to enjoy a vast amount of live acts within a short amount of time. Several of the venues were free for all, making the price of admission even less for many attendees. Parking was an issue, but that's just a normal occurrence in the MainStrasse area. When the worst part of a festival is having too many people at said festival, that's a pretty good sign for a new event.

For a brand new festival, Feywill drew in several big, local names, such as Loudmouth, Eat Sugar and The Harlequins (alongside many more) along with major, local sponsors, like Ale 8, Maker's Mark and Kentucky Ale. The strong local ties made for an event that has a lot of promise for years to come. In fact, the vast amount of local bands and support provided a nice counterpoint to the other major music festival of the area: Midpoint. Midpoint has grown exponentially through the years and this growth has brought a lot of national attention. This national recognition, while very beneficial for the festival and the area, has also caused an influx of national and regional acts joining the festival to perform. Feywill's almost completely local lineup was a welcome shift from Midpoint's evolution. Being able to see a band and be almost completely assured that you could see them again soon at some local club is undeniably exciting.

Ultimately, the inaugural Feywill Music Festival could be considered a success by any measure. Several dozen local bands, backed by local sponsors, and their fans converged upon MainStrasse village, took the stage across nine venues and rocked out for two nights of fun. With Midpoint and its myriad incarnations, Cincinnati and northern Kentucky is quickly becoming a hotspot for quality music festivals. With the inclusion of, hopefully, another yearly music festival, that reputation can only grow.



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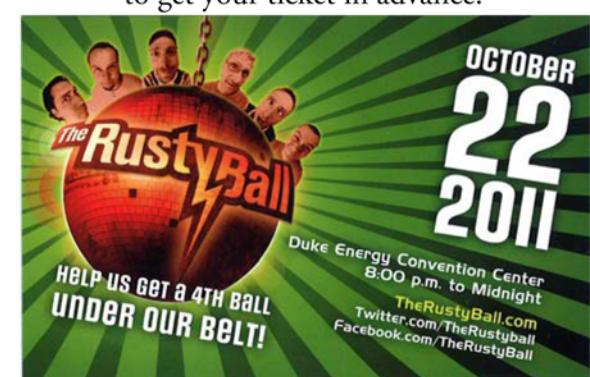
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Renaissance Man

Meet Mike Henson. Age 64. Alcoholism Counsellor. Poet. Musician. Novelist. Life-long activist.

JIM LUKEN
Contributing Writer

Mike Henson has come for a meeting in the storefront office at Buddy's Place, at 13th and Vine. In the short time before the meeting opens, he stares out the big front windows facing Vine Street. "I remember when those windows were filled with guitars and sheet music."

We were sitting in what was once—Mike reminds me—the Jimmy Skinner Music Store, a hub of old time music in Cincinnati for quite a few years. During that period (the 60s and 70s), according to Henson, there were five churches and five bars on Main between 12th and Liberty. "They were all playing bluegrass music. Even the Stanley Brothers came here to play." At that time many, perhaps most folks in Over-the-Rhine had Appalachian roots.

Mike Henson's long-time involvement in Over-the-Rhine stems primarily from the neighborhood's Southern Mountain heritage, which is now mostly a thing of the distant past. Having always loved "the hillbillies." Mike, who has published a handful of books and holds a Masters Degree in English, proudly considers himself a hillbilly too. Of sorts.

He remembers growing up semi-rural in Sidney, Ohio, an hour and a half north of Cincinnati. His mother was a school teacher, raised in Massachusetts. But his Dad's roots were in the hills of Kentucky. The Henson family Sidney home's backyard bumped up against the backyard of another Henson home, the place where his paternal grandparents had retired. Mike's grandpa had "little or no education," but he played five musical instruments. Henson says he would learn Southern words and expressions from his grandparents, then go home, and his mother would correct him. Henson smiles. "She talked like the Kennedys."

Mike remembers spending as much time as he could with his Dad's folks. "But after they died, he says, "it wasn't OK to be affiliated with anything south of the Ohio River. It wasn't OK to be a hillbilly." In high school and college, Henson recalls classmates

making fun of some of his down-home expressions. "Pert-near," for example, and "crick" for creek.

As an undergraduate at Xavier University, he hooked up with a group called "The Appalachian Volunteer Program." The students would make regular trips to Eastern Kentucky. "I loved it," Henson beams. "That's where I met Bonnie." [Bonnie Neuemeier, 40-year activist in OTR]

During one of the student trainings for work in Appalachia, Mike met a man named Ernie Mynatt. Ernie was from Harlan County, KY, a born teacher, and, at the time, a "detached social worker" in Over-the-Rhine. Henson says Mynatt received a little money from an Appalachian Fund, and simply hung out on the street with the folks. "He was the most charismatic man I ever met. He had a way of articulating this positive vision of hope."

After the training session, Henson sat down with Mynatt who scribbled some notes especially for the young activist-to-be. "I kept them with me for 20 years, until my wallet was stolen." More than anything else, it was Mynatt's influence that brought Henson to work in OTR. One of Ernie's statements, as Mike recalls, could be true for any middle class person working/living among the poor. "Remember...you can always leave. They can't."

In September of '65, still in college, Mike Henson got a summer job with the Main Street Bible Center, a Catholic social service agency. His job resembled that of his mentor. "I was encouraged to hang out with the guys. So I did. I took them fishing."

The young social-worker-to-be got very close to some of these men. "They were my great teachers." More important perhaps, this group of men enabled Henson to get in touch with his own familial and cultural roots. "It sounds stupid," he explains, "but they taught me to let my shirttails hang out. They taught me the richness of the (Appalachian) language. I remember the tones and the rhythms." Indeed, some of those tones and rhythms have found their way into Henson's own "voice." Even now, he speaks with a slight, sweet drawl.

All these first clients and teachers and friends are dead now, Mike Henson relates. Three of them from "the consequences of alcohol"..."One kid got executed by the state of Ohio."

On one of his trips to out to Martin County, Kentucky, the young activist met a local girl, named Kathleen Prudence. The two would be married in Adams County (Ohio) where Henson went, after graduating from Xavier, to be an English Teacher. He recalls that this was the poorest school district in the poorest county in Ohio. Once again, Henson—along with his new wife—got deeply involved with the Appalachian community there.

A year later, the couple left Adams County for an entirely different world. Graduate school at the University of

Meetup is meant to tell people's stories in their own words. The views expressed in this column are solely those of the interviewee and not those of the Greater Cincinnati Coalition for the Homeless, Streetvibes or the staff, volunteers and board members.

Chicago. Mike's intention was to get a Masters degree, then a PHD in English. He made it halfway to his goal. "We had a baby," Henson explains.

The couple returned to Cincinnati, and located themselves on Orchard Street near the old Woodward High school in OTR. Two more daughters joined their sister in the Henson family. Kathleen would become deeply committed to the efforts to save the Peaslee School as a downtown public school.

Initially, Mike found himself involved in the so-called Model Cities Program. "We did a lot of good work," he recalls, "but the program itself

After so varied a job history, Mike now finds himself working as a licensed, independent, chemical dependency counselor in a program called Paths to Recovery. His office is at the new Jimmy Heath House on Odeon Street. On the surface this might seem like a dramatic employment turn-around. Not so. In addition to his regular work, Henson had been helping—mostly as a volunteer—with clinical supervision at the Drop Inn Center for the past 15 years. "One of the things I am most proud of is that we brought what had been an 'experience' up to professional standards."

Henson looks back on his employment career as a kind of mystery. "If you had told me 35 years ago what I would end up doing, I wouldn't have believed you. It's like I had these different lives, and they really didn't have anything to do with one another."

But that's not all. There have been at least two other "lives" that the hillbilly-wannabe lad from Sidney has lived out through all these years. A political and a literary life.

"I'm a person of the left," Mike says, "a totally unapologetic socialist. But the things I value most, are also valued by many of my conservative friends. If we could find out

how to talk and to act on these common values, we could change the world." Then with a sigh, "There's just so much noise."

Henson on black-white relations: "I've been privileged to have had great experiences working with the African-American community, working with black colleagues and friends. It appears to me that the lower down the economic scale people go, the less racism they have, the less fear they have of one another. I think the poor can teach society in that regard."

"In the East End, black and white families have been together for years. They ought to be the ones to tell the city how to deal with race relations. Forget the high-priced counselors."

And then there is the artist side of Michael Henson. He is the author of five books, including a novel (*Ransack*), two books of poems and two books of short stories. He will soon publish a short novel, called *Tommy Perdue*. Like his four children, he says all the books are different, and he is proud of each one for different reasons.

And then there is the music. Mike Henson is an excellent guitar player and—take it from this writer—a singer with a haunting approach to his material. Low key, but powerful, very much like the man himself.

Henson: "Mostly I do music because I enjoy it. It brings me in contact with people I wouldn't meet otherwise"..."If you want to relate to the working class, learn some corny song, like Kenny Rogers. You need to relate to people where they are. I don't think people should just do the narrowly correct thing."

Far be it from Mike Henson to do the narrowly correct thing. He is, after all, and obviously, a renaissance man.



Mike reflects on his long and winding journey. *Photo: Jim Luken*

was a great destroyer of community organizing."

It was at this time ('72-'73) that Mike met buddy gray, and became involved with *Voices* newspaper, the precursor to *Streetvibes* (he remains an occasional contributor of poetry and book reviews). He participated in a start-up project, through the Urban Appalachian Council, called "The Appalachian Heritage Room" on 14th Street (now the office of Over-the-Rhine Community Housing). Henson describes this as—partially at least—a five-year-long attempt to bring the Black and Appalachian communities together. "As little as we knew about what the hell we were doing, I'm surprised everything didn't go wrong. I think we did a pretty good job though. Every now and then we hit it right."

But, as often happens with intense working situations, there were people problems. Finally, he says, "the personality stuff overwhelmed me."

So Mike decided to take a factory job at Duro Paper Bag in Covington. "I only weighed 120 pounds, and I was working with some very big machinery, and very heavy bundles. Ever the organizer, Henson says he helped rebuild a foundering union into a functioning one while he was there. "I learned a lot," he says.

After that job, Henson worked for seven years as a counselor at Talbert House, doing outreach in the East End. He divorced, and later married Elissa Pogue, a long-time social worker, specializing in prevention work. They had one son, who is now 24, and a professional writer like his Dad.

In 1999, Mike Henson went back to the Urban Appalachian Council, doing organizing work around environmental issues for eight years in Lower Price Hill.



SOAP Box TEES

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Get up, Stand Up: Uniting Populists, Energizing the Defeated and Battling the Corporate Elite

! KATE ZAIDAN
www.cincinnatibeacon.com

One need not look far to see the evidence of a deflated population. Quality of life for the poor and middle classes in America is careening toward untenable, with the most draconian cuts to government services since Nixon advanced by a Democrat promising change. We live in the most economically prosperous country in the world, and the story we are told over and over is that we are bankrupt. While spirited protests and committed individuals surround social and economic justice issues, overall, movements for change involve only the tiniest sliver of the general population. Are we rallying around the wrong issues? Is protest dated and ineffective? Or are we too sad and helpless to believe that anything can change?

I had the opportunity to sit down with Cincinnati's own Bruce Levine, whose recent book *Get up, Stand Up: Uniting Populists, Energizing the Defeated and Battling the Corporate Elite* is the latest addition to a growing body of work that attempts to explain and diagnose the passivity of the general public in the face of increasing austerity. Levine is a self-described "dissident shrink" and posits that most Americans are not lazy, greedy and selfish; rather, many have become psychologically incapable of rebellion. I spoke with him last week at a local coffee shop in his eclectic Cincinnati neighborhood.

Bruce's take on contemporary American life is painfully acute. We are in an "abusive relationship" with our society; we live in a cycle of dependency where violence takes the form of complete corporate control of our lives. Efforts to resist are criminalized, medicated, and co-opted. "Most people know that money controls the world, but are either too depressed or drugged to do anything about it." We learn helplessness: our lives at work, home and school isolate us from each other, compromise our integrity and reward money and ego worship. Drugs, both illegal and prescribed, and television are simply filling the holes in our hearts. Our psychic malaise serves an increasingly empowered elite, enriched on the backs of working people, without any risk of reprisal.

Levine's book carefully reconstructs the terrain of struggle for progressives: we need to focus less

on information, and more on creating energy. He points a compassionate yet honest finger at traditional forms of activism, noting that the ever-present lectures and reform campaigns often serve to burden our already heavy hearts. What we need instead, Levine says, are communities formed in struggle that provide a platform for reverberation, a sense of belonging, and small victories that build our morale.

"Strategically, when we recognize that large corporations cannot stomach losing any money, then one realizes that boycotts and bad publicity can be quite effective. Coalition of Immokalee Workers, an organization of mostly immigrant and undocumented farm-workers, decided to fight the biggest food corporations on earth—and they won. Ten years ago they started a campaign for "fair food," pressuring the major buyers of those tomatoes to pay more. Within four years, they got Taco Bell to meet all their demands, and by 2007 McDonald's had fallen in line. When one experiences some sense of potency, this can be antidote to demoralization and defeatism."

Movements for change must build self-respect and collective self-confidence to summon the energy needed to win our battles. "Collective self-confidence—or the belief that it is actually possible to overcome corporatocracy domination—can come with even small victories. So, for example the Boston based group City Life has won victories over banks, stopping evictions, foreclosures by organizing blockades, vigils and other actions, that exert public pressure on the banks, and these victories energize those City Life activists to take on larger systems."

"People must believe that they are worthy of power" says Levine, and contends that the institutions supposedly anchoring our democracy, like the electoral system and higher education, actually erode our collective self-con-

fidence, providing a false and hollow sense of control. "If one is only caring about electoral politics on the national level, this can create learned helplessness and be disempowering. After

all, whether a Republican or a Democrat wins, we still get senseless wars and corporate control, and because of the power of money in our election system is almost impossible for a third party such as the Green Party that opposes corporate control and senseless wars to win. So, it is

important to keep in mind that national elections are only one 'democracy battlefield', and we should put more energy into battlefields that are less controlled by big money."

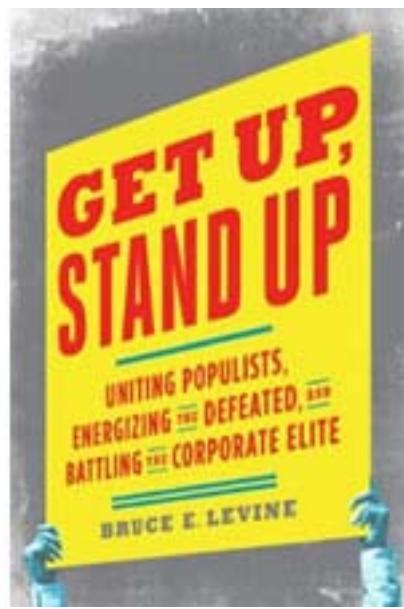
Progressive books of this sort are often predictably formulaic: seven chapters of hyperbolic doomsday scenarios proceed one chapter of simplistic utopian vision, with a case study of an organization that is doing it right. *Get Up, Stand Up* is a refreshing anomaly. Levine instructs us to navigate what might lie in between global meltdown and democratic, self-sustaining bioregions. While some of his critique of schools and government seemed to be rooted in strongly held yet unsubstantiated opinion, Levine's book does offer something new and hopeful to the tired reiterations of what is wrong with the world.

"Academics sometimes stress only information and seem to believe that the truth alone is enough to set people free, but all democratic movements—from anti-war, to labor, to civil rights—have always required risk and courage. In the U.S., unlike some other authoritarian societies, there is less risk of being killed for opposing the corporate elite but there is a great risk—almost certainty—of economic marginalization. That's a big way how the U.S. corporatocracy keeps us in line. So, we must begin to do what old-time activists did, which is that you have to create more economic self-sufficiency and a community that supports one another financially. Many

of us would like to 'do the right thing' but fears including financial ones break us. So activists must begin to do what America's most successful activists such as those in our great agrarian revolt, the Populist Movement in the 1880s and 1890s, This was to implement practices such as producer cooperatives that reduced the financial pain of its members. That's how one recruits and sustains a movement so I spend a great deal of time in *Get Up, Stand Up* talking about the lessons from that Populist Movement."

Levine's revolutionary suggestion is that we approach both activism and mental health in ways that are democratic, human-centered, and give us a sense of our own power. Treading lightly around the questions of ideology, Populism is used (perhaps too casually) to illustrate a vision of a movement that meets both the material and spiritual needs of working class people. In fact, Levine suggests that traditional divisions of right and left prevent us from building strategic alliances with positive outcomes. "When it comes to horrors of the senseless wars that wasteful military spending, one failure of many left activists is to be unwilling—perhaps out of fear that it is not politically correct—to form alliances with anti-war libertarians who passionately oppose these wars. By the way, these anti-authoritarian libertarians also oppose the Wall Street bailout, the PATRIOT Act, NAFTA, the War on Drugs, and other issues that left-antiauthoritarians also oppose. Alliances among different political camps on these issues don't prevent debate and disagreements on other issues, such as the proper use of government and markets. In fact alliances on war opposition can turn these other debates into more productive dialogues, and I have actually had libertarian antiauthoritarians tell me, after such dialogues about the corporatocracy, that maybe they will move over to being left anti-authoritarians."

The old left has been accused of favoring the material over the spiritual. The new left tends to uphold the therapeutic over the concrete. Levine helps us strike a balance. He posits that change cannot occur until we begin to heal our broken hearts. The book stands to change much of what we think about political engagement. Courage, hope and solidarity are more than just buzzwords, indeed, these intangible qualities are the difference between a winning and losing battle.



SPRING by Willa Denise Jones

*Spring has always been my favorite out all four seasons
Spring has no snow and not too much heat, may that be the reason
Spring with it so many misinterpretations and misunderstandings
Spring to the light so we can see just what mankind is demanding
Spring to the facts: Unemployment and homelessness on the rise, can these things be an illusion
Spring into the reality: We as a people trying to control each other, now this is the confusion
Spring into new horizons, now living with new politicians, new fights and new killings
Spring into arrest which means nothing today for the facts state the state is doing the stealing
Spring to the wakeup call so I sprung up one morning and realized my seasons had come
Spring into the real understanding that the battles only God has won
Spring is the understanding that like all things that come and go, spring is here
Spring back to know that all men are created equal is that not what should be made so clear
Spring to the knowledge that we as people have choices and can make positive decisions
Spring into the word of God and believe with faith, with trust only then can we stop these collisions*

STREETVIBES ANNUAL VISUAL AND LITERARY ART CONTEST:

As part of *Streetvibes'* commitment to building community and advocating justice we are expanding our reach to the local arts community, seeking their artistic voice and vision.

Beginning **SEPTEMBER 2ND, 2011** *Streetvibes* will begin accepting submissions for our first annual visual and literary art contest. There are three distinct categories 1. StreetVision 2. StreetVoice and 3. StreetVagary. All submissions will be considered however, preference will go to work produced by local artists and writers from the Greater Cincinnati and Northern Kentucky area and for work that embraces human rights and social justice. Submissions are reviewed on an on-going basis. Submissions are \$5 per entry and there is no limit to the number of entries each artist or writer submits. Submission fees will fund a pot of prize money that will be given to the top entries bi-annually. Prizes are awarded to the top three entries in all three categories.

YOU ARE INVITED:



GREATERCINCINNATI HOMELESS COALITION

Please join Prairie and the Greater Cincinnati Homeless Coalition for the release party for the 2012 Day by Day calendar and Homeless Awareness Month Kick Off

Saturday, October 1st
7-9PM

At Prairie, 4035 Hamilton Avenue
Through October
Gallery Hours Tues-Fri 10-6, Sat 10-4

Prairie collaborates with Greater Cincinnati Homeless Coalition to produce an annual calendar called Day by Day which includes photographs and text by distributors of *Streetvibes*. The unique points of view presented in this calendar are sold by *Streetvibes* distributors in late Fall.

SUPPORTED BY:
SCRIPPS HOWARD FOUNDATION

Tri-State Maternal-Fetal Medicine Associates, Inc.

Patty Cottingham



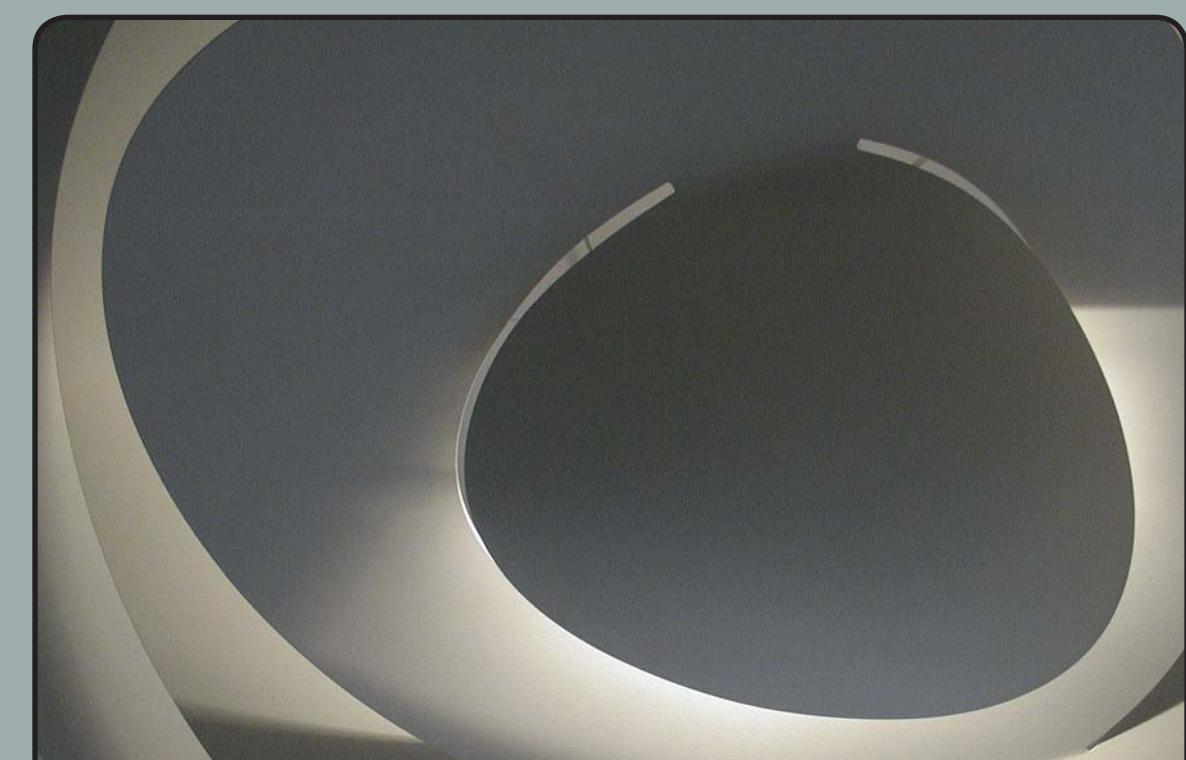
UC Health

POWER
Inspires Progress

take the cake



Aquarius Star



Riccardo Taylor



The experience allowed me to get outside of myself, taking a look at the world around me. The reality that things are not always what they seem and in fact present a reality other than the one of first impression, allows me to be more aware of the world around me."

CATEGORIES:

1 StreetVision:

This category is for visual art that will be published on the back cover of *Streetvibes*. The back cover is a full color page, however black and white images will be considered. All artwork not accepted will be ready for pick up 30 days from submission date. Work not picked up after 90 days will be auctioned at the Coalition for the Homeless Annual Dinner.

Guidelines: Art must be no larger than 11x17 -OR- if larger than 11x17 bring in original piece and include a digital version. All mediums accepted. To submit your artwork bring it to the *Streetvibes* office at 117 E. 12th Street on Tuesdays between 9AM and 5PM. Include name, phone number, email and address on back of each entry.

2 StreetVoice:

This category is a fiction writing contest. With this contest we are looking for original short stories. Winning entries will be published in *Streetvibes*. Preference will be given to stories that incorporate themes that address social justice, discrimination, oppression and/or the causes and consequences of inequality.

Guidelines: Stories should not exceed 3,000 words (shorter lengths are welcome.) No handwritten entries. Include your name, address, email address and phone number on each entry. *Streetvibes* will publish the winning stories as they are received. Mail or drop off your entries and fee at the *Streetvibes* office at 117 E. 12th Street Cincinnati, Ohio 45223. Please do not send cash via snail mail. Submissions will not be returned unless a SASE is included with each entry.

3 StreetVagary:

This is an editorial cartoon/illustration contest. StreetVagary is open to aspiring or professional cartoonists of any age. Winning entries will be published in *Streetvibes*. Preference will be given to political cartoons that incorporate commentary on current events.

Guidelines: Submit single panel or strip cartoon entries. Include your name, address, email address and phone number on each entry. *Streetvibes* will publish the winning cartoons as they are received. Mail or drop off your entry and fee at the *Streetvibes* office at 117 E. 12th Street Cincinnati, Ohio 45223. Please do not send cash via snail mail. Submissions will not be returned unless a SASE is included with each entry.